

HaIRY HISToRY

"Go on, dude!
Find my weak
spots!"



**LANGLEY CASTLE'S
HISTORY CRAMMER**

Introduction

Let's tell you about our castle. Basically, Langley Castle is cool (or sick, if you prefer). Know what makes it cool? Its history. Some places just have nice, sit there, age a bit and bore everyone to death history that's basically just about the date the walls went up. Ours isn't like that. It's action-packed (sometimes gory) stuff.

"How can that be, when it had no roof for nearly 500 years?", you ask?

OK, you nearly got us there. But not quite. You see, it still had stuff going on around it – all real life stuff to do with those facts that dumb your head in class.

And it's hairy ... a lot of the time.

In fact, many of the guys and gals we'll talk about were hairy.

Or wore a wig.

Or both, maybe.

Got it?

If not, just imagine our seven-foot walls have ears. If they didn't see it, they sure heard about it.

And they're ready to spill ...

England v Scotland



Back in the old days, this England v Scotland match-up wasn't about footie or rugby but about a big battle for land, thrones, bragging rights... you name it, actually.

Langley Castle's big issue was that it was so close to the Anglo-Scottish border (England and Scotland's dividing line) and boy oh boy did that border cause trouble, the minute good old Hadrian's Wall came down. But more of that later.

Basically, what you need to grasp is that Langley stood in a war zone ... for centuries. As each century is 100 years long, that's a long, long time).

Now do you see why its walls needed to be seven-feet thick?

We told you Langley Castle's history was hairy!

Those Roman Numerals!

As you may know, the Romans didn't use numbers but numerals. When it came to Kings and Queens, so did they, so you kinda need to know some of this stuff, as Kings and Queens are pretty tied up with the history of Langley Castle. So here, goes, get your head round these:

1 =	I
2 =	II
3 =	III
4 =	IV
5 =	V
6 =	VI
7 =	VII
8 =	VIII
9 =	IX
10 =	X
11 =	XI
12 =	XII
13 =	XIII
14 =	XIV
15 =	XV
20 =	XX
50 =	L
100 =	C
500 =	D
1000 =	M



Hairy Roman Sums

1. Make this sum a Roman sum, changing the numbers to numerals.

$$2 + 13 = 15$$

2. Freya stays at Langley Castle for two nights, then comes back for another three, then stays for a whole week, staying for 7 nights. Write the sum of the days she stays in Roman numerals.

3. Were you paying attention? For nearly how many years did Langley not have a roof? How do you write that in Roman numerals?

4. As we go on, you'll see that 1350 is pretty important at Langley, as that's when the medieval builders moved in. No white vans back in those days though. Probably no tea breaks either. Now how do you think you write 1350 in Roman numerals? Look at the way they write 2, or 8 and 20 and you'll see how they repeated a letter to show there was double or treble of it, so bear this in mind. Translate 1350 as:

One thousand Three lots of 100. Fifty.

That way, you should get your Roman numeral right.

Langley Castle Timeline

(The 'what happened when' line)

- 1165** The Barony of Langley is created and held by Adam de Tindale.
- 1188** The Barony passes to Adam de Tindale's son Adam.
- 1194** The Barony passes to Adam's daughter, Philippa, & hubby Nicholas de Bolteby.
- 1273** Nicholas dies and the Barony passes to son, Adam.
- 1291** Adam dies. His daughter Isabella inherits and, through her marriage to Thomas, the Barony passes into the de Multon family, who take the name de Lucy.
- 1304** Thomas de Lucy the Elder dies and son, Thomas the Younger inherits.
- 1308** Thomas dies and his brother Anthony de Lucy, inherits.

- 1343** Sir Anthony de Lucy (knighted 1314) dies. Son, Thomas, inherits.
- 1350** **Thomas de Lucy starts having Langley Castle built.**
- 1365** Thomas dies and Langley passes to his son, Anthony.
- 1368** Anthony de Lucy dies and his two-year-old daughter, Johanna, inherits.
- 1369** Johanna dies and her Aunt Maud de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, inherits.
- 1381** Sir Gilbert dies.
- 1389** Maud, Thomas's daughter dies and Langley Castle goes to her second hubby, Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland.
- 1405** Around this time, Langley Castle is gutted by fire and loses its roof, then sitting empty for about 500 years.
- 1441** The De Lucy family get Langley Castle & their Barony back.
- 1632** The Radcliffes of Dilston (the Earls of Derwentwater) have the barony.
- 1714** James Radcliffe makes woeful decision to lead Jacobite march and is captured at the Battle of Preston with bro Charles.
- 1715** James is beheaded at the Tower of London. Charles escapes.
- 1745** Charles foolishly leads another Jacobite uprising and is also beheaded at the Tower.
- 1749** Langley Castle and the Langley barony are seized by the rather irate King and given to the Royal Hospital for Seamen in Greenwich (lead mines are a bit of a money spinner).

1892 Local historian and former High Sheriff, Cadwallader John Bates buys Langley Castle.

1895 Cadwallader has married Josephine d'Echarvines and they start to restore Langley.

1902 Cadwallader dies. Josephine carries on restoring the castle and Visits Pope Leo XIII for thumbs up to build a chapel in her hubby's memory.

1940s Langley Castle is used as a World War II barracks.

1950s Langley Castle is a girls' boarding school.

1970s/80s Langley Castle is used for medieval banquets.

1986 Clued-up American professor, Dr Stuart Madnick, an IT guru at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology - buys Langley Castle and turns it into a hotel.

2007 Dr Madnick purchases the Barony back from the Crown and becomes Baron of Langley.

Today Here you are, learning all about it!

English & Scottish Kings and Queen Timeline (Who was on the throne, when - from 1153/4)

Henry II	1154-1189	1153-1165	Malcolm IV (Mael Colum)
Richard I (Lionheart)	1189-1199	1165-1214	William the Lion
John	1199-1216	1214-1249	Alexander II
Henry III	1216-1272	1249	Alexander III
Edward I	1272-1307	1286-90	Margaret, Maid of Norway
		1292-1296	John Balliol
		1296-1306	Scotland is ruled by England
Edward II	1307-1327	1306-1329	Robert I (The Bruce)
Edward III	1327-1377		
		1329-1371	David II
		1371-1390	Robert II
Henry IV	1399-1413	1390-1406	Robert III
Henry V	1413-1422	1406-1437	James I
Henry VI	1422-1461		
Edward IV	1461-1483		
Edward V	1483-1483	1437-1460	James II
Richard III	1483-1485	1460-1488	James III
Henry VII	1485-1509		
Henry VIII	1509-1547		
Edward VI	1547-1553	1488-1513	James IV
Mary I	1553-1558	1513-1542	James V
Elizabeth I	1558-1603	1542-1567	Mary Queen of Scots
		1567	James VI
James I (VI of Scotland)	1603-1625	Both crowns united in 1603	
Charles I	1625-1649		

The Commonwealth	
Oliver Cromwell	1653-1658
Richard Cromwell	1658-1659
The Restoration	
Charles II	1660-1685
James II (VII of Scotland)	1685-1688
William & Mary	1689-1702
Anne	1702-1714
George I	1714-1727
George II	1727-1760
George III	1760-1820
George IV	1820-1830
William IV	1830-1837
Victoria	1837-1901
Edward VII	1901-1910
George V	1910-1936
Edward VIII	1936-1936
George VI	1936-1952
Elizabeth II	1952-



Before Langley (BL)

Hard to believe though it is, there was a time when Langley Castle wasn't here. We're going to refer to that time as BL – Before Langley.

BL is the period of time before 1350. So what was going down in the hood then?

Those Romans!

AD 43

You could say things started in AD43, when an Emperor bloke in Rome – the not very likeable Emperor Claudius – decided to invade this little old island of ours called Britain. That doesn't go down well with the native tribes!

AD 117

By now, Emperor Hadrian is sitting pretty in Rome but having trouble with the Celts – the tribes living in Scotland and right on the northernmost border of the Roman border. Hadrian has a masterplan! He decides to build a wall to keep them out! Guess what? That wall is only about six miles away from Langley Castle, so we're deep in what was Roman territory!



The famous Hadrian's Wall starts to go up. It's going to take the Romans six years to complete it, but they weren't exactly slacking. It ends up being about 73 miles long. "That's an odd number", you cry. But it wasn't odd to the Romans, as our 73 miles was 80 Roman miles and, if you're wondering, a Roman mile was about 1000 paces.

Around 15,000 men had to build it – three Roman legions of 5,000 men per legion and the legions involved were the II Augusta, based in South Wales, the VI Victrix from York and the XX Valeria Victrix from Chester. Well, it was 15 feet high and 9 feet wide!

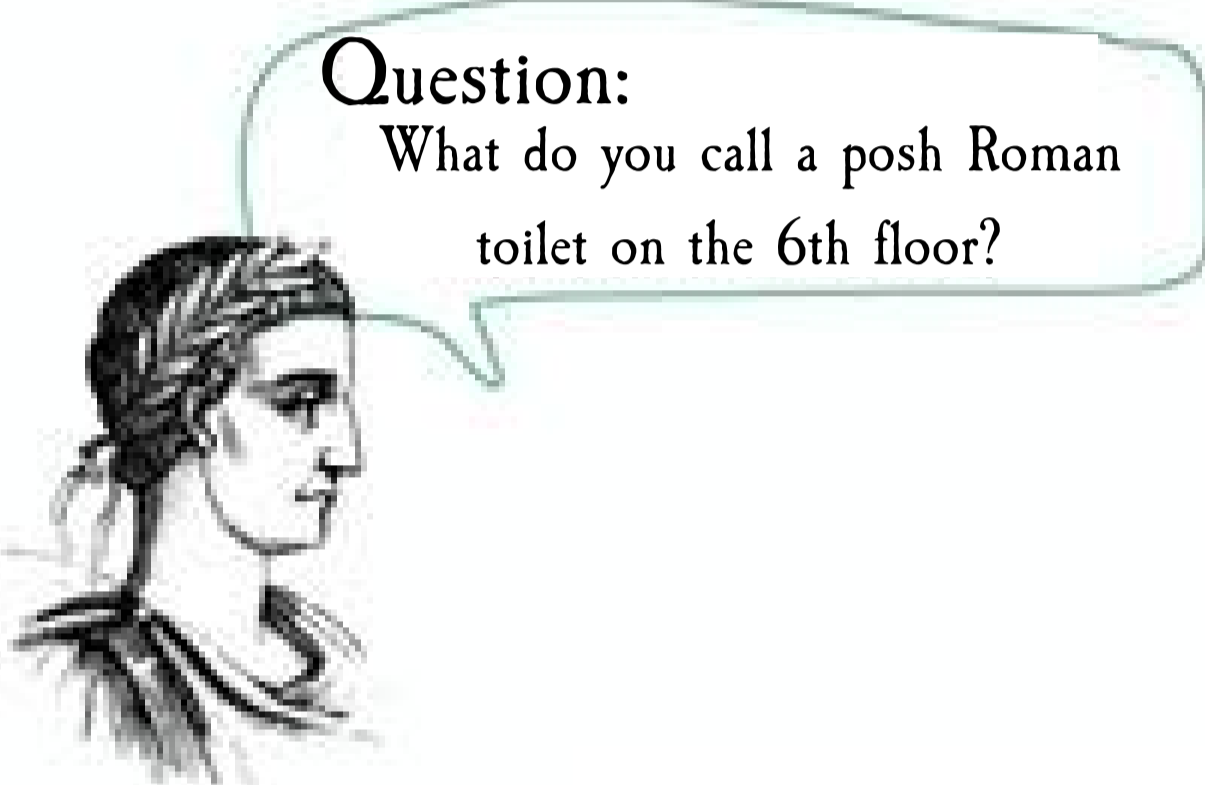
Roman Centurions (each in charge of 100 men) built sections of the Wall with their men and then left stones to show which part they'd completed. Nothing like boasting, after all!

The guys who 'lived' in the garrisons on the Wall, came from all over the Roman Empire and included some archers from Syria who would have probably won Olympic gold medals, had they existed in their time. Yes, they were that good!

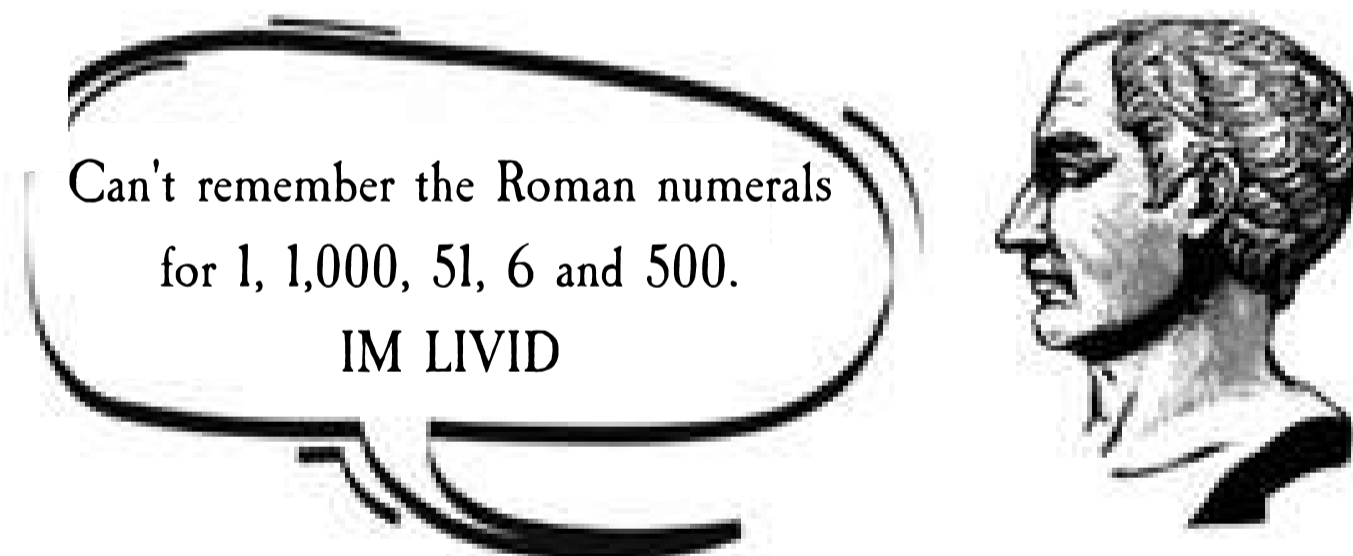
They weren't the only nationality in these parts. The auxiliary soldiers came from places like Romania, northern Spain and Belgium.

The old Roman mile thing is quite important because, every Roman mile, these hardworking Roman auxiliaries built a milecastle, in which about 20 of them lived together, smelly feet and all. That meant the whole of Hadrian's Wall was pretty much defended because, on top of these milecastles, they also had forts, home to about 500 soldiers.

Back to the smells though, because at forts like Chesters, soldiers also had horses and these Roman cavalry soldiers really did need pegs on their noses. They lived in the same room as their horses, separated only by a narrow wall. Basically, all the horse poo fell into a pit beneath. Stomachs must have been strong back in Roman times, although experts do say that, as poo goes, horse poop isn't too bad to breathe in!



Question:
What do you call a posh Roman toilet on the 6th floor?



Answer: A VIP room
Can't remember the Roman numerals for 1, 1,000, 51, 6 and 500.
IM LIVID

The Romans also made sure Hadrian's Wall was well-protected, by building a ditch in front of it – The Vallum. You can still see traces of that on the landscape. As for the Wall, well there's still some of it to be seen – though now much lower in size, so you need to use your imagination a bit and imagine how huge it once was.

Whilst you're at Langley, you should check some forts out – **Chesters and Housesteads**, for instance, and don't forget to go to the **Roman Army Museum and Vindolanda**.

Vindolanda is home to the Vindolanda Tablets. These are the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain, like early letters, but written on thin wood with carbon-based ink. They contain some classic lines and the earliest known invitation to a birthday party, from Claudia Severa to Sulpicia Lepidinal. Claudia's hubby was Aelius Brocchus, whilst her invitee was the wife of Flavius Cerialis, prefect of the Cohort of Batavians.

"On 11 September, sister, for the day of the celebration of my birthday, I give you a warm invitation to make sure that you come to us, to make the day more enjoyable for me by your arrival, if you are present. Give my greetings to your Cerialis. My Aelius and my little son send him their greetings. I shall expect you, sister. Farewell, sister, my dearest soul, as I hope to prosper, and hail."

Some messages are a bit more down to earth, such as:

"I have sent (?) you ... pairs of socks from Sattua, two pairs of sandals and two pairs of underpants"



and

"a friend sent me 50 oysters from Cordonovi; I'm sending you half."

The Romans were walking the lands around Hadrian's Wall in their socks and sandals and, no doubt, stuffing oysters inside their forts, until around AD 410 when the Empire ended and then other folk used some of their buildings.

And why do we say that?

Well, because after a few centuries of putting up with looking at the wall, some bright spark decided to pinch some stones from it for building work and you know how it is ... once one does it, they all do it.

As the Anglo-Saxons weren't too fussed about building with stone, these early building materials recyclers were most probably Normans, known for their castle building and arriving around Hadrian's Wall quite well into the 12th century AD (late 1100s).

People know that some of the buildings in Haydon Bridge are built with Roman stones from Hadrian's Wall.

We've also heard that Langley Castle could have been built with some too!

If you really want to know all there is to know about the Romans here, you should ask the adults to book a trip with Ancient Britain – www.ancientbritain.org They will pick you up at Langley Castle's door and give you a brilliant time out, learning about all things Roman. Oh, and we almost forgot, Kevin is quite hairy!



The Tindales

Before Langley Castle existed, there was a patch of land. Quite a big patch of land, actually, stretching across much of not just the area that the castle sits on, but a vast swathe of land around the Lower Tyne Valley. It was about 13,000 acres – about 9848 football pitches!

Langley's first owner peeps were the family who held the lands around it as tenants in chief of the Kings of England and Scotland, in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. This was the Tindale family but, as is often the way in history, you can spell their surname in many ways. Tyndall, Tyndale, Tindal, Tyndal, Tindoll, Tindall, Tindale, Tindle, Tindell, Tindill and Tindal, were really all from the same family, holding lands in the valley of the River Tyne.

The family had Anglo-Saxon roots and were nobility – barons (posh folk, with privileges), in fact. It could be that William Tyndale, who was the first modern translator of the bible into English, in the time of Henry VIII, came from this family. Unfortunately, folk didn't like him doing that and he was tied to a stake, strangled and burned. Langley's Tindales luckily didn't suffer like that!

A

The first Baron of Langley was called Adam de Tindale, which meant his name, when written, began with an A. They looked like this, back then. And then his son was called Adam de Tindale. He also had a name starting with a letter like this! All a tad confusing, perhaps, in the Tindale home.

Old Adam de Tindale was married to Helwise, the daughter of a local chieftain. He died in 1191. Young Adam was Baron from about 1190 to 1250.

Barons were usually given their land back then, because they fought for the king. It would seem that either Adam's father or grandfather were given the land for being a knight of Henry I. That particular king possibly killed his own brother, William, by hiring an archer to shoot an arrow at him in the New Forest, and was pretty nasty. He was known as Henry Beauclerc, which meant he was good at reading and writing. Pity he wasn't good at being kind to people!

After all the Adam confusions, the Tindales had no sons to inherit their lands, so Adam the younger's daughter became the Baron. She married a chap called Nicholas de Bolteby around 1220 and his family took over the Barony. He died in 1273 and yet another Adam (this time Adam de Bolteby) took over. He had two daughters – Isabella and Eve.

Isabella married Thomas de Multon – a knight. He didn't seem to like his name, so which of these things do you think he did?:

1. Changed it to de Bolteby, as it had one more letter in the surname and came earlier in the alphabet.
2. Changed it to Mutton, as he liked sheep so much.
3. Changed it to de Lucy, as it sounded much posher and in keeping with what a prestigious baron should sound like.

The De Lucys

You guessed it, Thomas de Multon went for the posh option and became Thomas de Lucy. He died in 1304 and, (oh dear, more confusion), his son, Thomas de Lucy, took over, at the age of 24.

He then died without any children, in 1308, and his younger brother, Anthony de Lucy, became Baron (pew, an escape from the Thomases!)

Anthony was a man who liked to wear armour. In fact, he was actively fighting for Edward II for 25 years and became a knight (Sir Anthony de Lucy) in 1314.

Gilbert, our knight in Langley reception, would love you to learn more about all this knight malarkey, so here goes.

By the way, can you guess what Gilbert's favourite Christmas Carol is? The answer is at the end!



The Knight Makers

Edward I (ruling 1272-1307)

It's quite probable that it was Edward I who made Thomas de Lucy (formerly de Multon) a knight.

Edward I was known as Edward Longshanks, the Hammer of the Scots. The Longshanks bit referred to his height – 6 ft 2 inches (1.88m), quite a whopper in his time. The Hammer of the Scots relates to the fact he was always trying to conquer them and was pretty brutal to them. He was a bit temperamental too!

When his father, Henry III was on the throne, the barons were revolting (literally) and Edward helped calm things down. He then went trotting off to the Holy Land, to join the Ninth Crusade and was on his way back, when he got news that his poor old dad was no more. This was pretty much the end of the Crusades anyway but it was just the start for Edward.

Edward didn't exactly have a peaceful time of things. He claimed ownership of Scotland, which led to a Scottish War and him eventually killing the Scottish leader William Wallace.



Edward forced Wales to come under English rule and he also had a war with France – plenty of fighting for a knight to get involved with, then!

He did do a lot to reform the way the country ran though and created new laws. Trouble was, when he died, the Scottish War was still raging and he had racked up a debt of £200,000. If that wasn't bad enough, his son, also called Edward, wasn't exactly of the right kingly calibre!

When did medieval castle owners go to bed? (See the answers, at the end).

Edward II (ruling 1307- 1327)

We know that Anthony de Lucy fought for Edward II and that's why he received the old sword on the shoulders and became a 'sir'. Edward wasn't exactly a popular king and the barons weren't too chuffed when he gave away Cornwall to his royal favourite, Piers Gaveston.

With the Scottish War to deal with, he probably needed all the help he could get from those in the 'border' lands and, of course, that's where Anthony was.

He also had a rather formidable rival in Scotland – the well-known Robert the Bruce, who was trying to get prevent any possible English rule over Scotland. He may well have called those noisy neighbours of his 'Sassenachs' – a term used by the Scottish folk when talking about those who were Saxons.



In 1314, Edward II led his army to Bannockburn, to try to rescue Stirling, which was under siege. He had all the aces up his sleeve – knights, a trained army, fantastic archers ... and he still lost, in spectacular style, leaving Bruce to be declared the independent king of Scotland.

700 knights and men-at-arms were killed and 500 knights and men-at-arms captured. Up to 11,000 infantry men also lost their lives. Edward II was imprisoned and is said to have died in 1327, with a red hot poker in his bowels. Ouch!

Edward III

Edward III became king in 1327 at the age of just 14. Imagine that! Actually, though, let's calm down a bit. A teen didn't really run the country at that age. his mother Isabella and her partner, Roger Mortimer, bossed it for about four years until Edward overthrew them and got rid of Mortimer in 1330.

Edward was much better at things in general, although did upset the apple cart when he declared himself the rightful heir to the French throne. That sparked the 100 Years War, the first part of which went pretty well, with victories at Crécy and Poitiers (1356). By 1360, though, the King had to renounce his claims to the French throne.

Scottish Wars continued, with Edward III taking the fight back to the Scots after the death of Robert the Bruce in 1329, until a truce was signed in 1338.



In 1348, along came the Black Death, which had swept across Europe and killed up to half of the peeps in some countries. Rats had a bacteria that was picked up by the fleas that lived on them, which then passed to the humans who were bitten by the fleas. One nasty chain of events.

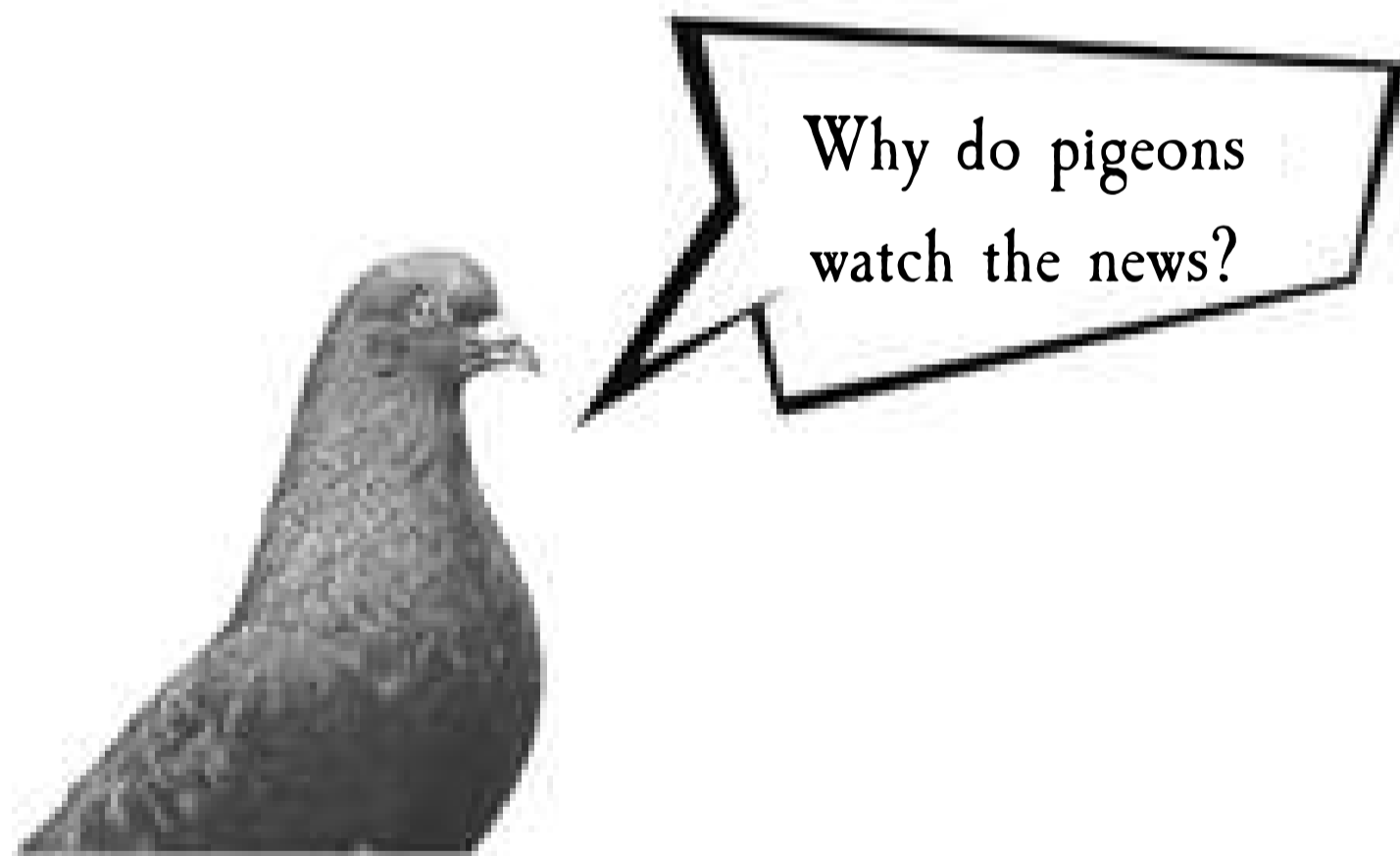
Other theories about the disease have been put forward in recent years, so maybe rats are off the hook a bit, but who's right?

Black spots and lumps under the arms, vomiting and fits were all signs that you probably had this plague. If you got symptoms of this total grossness, you had to put a white cross on the door and not leave the house. Of course, in cities, rats were common, so the chances of getting the plague were far higher. People even had to wear face masks!

Rubbing chopped up snakes or onions on the boils was one cure. Even pigeons were rubbed over infected bodies, whilst others drank vinegar or ate 10-year-old treacle, or crushed mercury, arsenic or minerals.

Some folk sat by fires or sewers, to try to drive the fever away, herbs were used, to try to purify houses, others felt they were being punished by God and walked the streets, whipping themselves. Crazy times.

The Black Death arrived in Britain in Weymouth, on July 7, 1348. By July 1349, it had reached every town in England.



In 1350, the plague spread through Scotland. That is, of course, the year that Langley Castle started to be built. Could the Black Death and the need for isolation, if it was in an area, have been part of the reason?

Anyway, back to Edward III. Suffice to say, he was a very popular king, unlike his father. In fact, one person wrote, "his like had not been seen since the days of King Arthur". Praise indeed. Good on ya, Eddy.

Anthony de Lucy

Anthony was born in 1283. In 1318, he was given the task of keeping castles and the city of Carlisle free from attack. That didn't include Langley, of course, as it wasn't yet built.

Anthony became the Constable of Carlisle Castle and then its Governor, in 1323. Whilst the King was away in Aquitaine, in France, Anthony was put in charge of the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland.

In 1314, he had to head off to Bannockburn with Edward II, so June 23-24 in his diary that year weren't the best of days. Luckily he escaped to Bothwell Castle, after the crushing defeat in battle.



He was imprisoned but a ransom was paid for his release. Between 1321 and 1342, he sat in Parliament and became Lord Lucy. In 1327, he was also pardoned for all offences committed when serving the King.

In 1331 (with Edward III now in charge), he was promoted to become the Chief Justiciar of Ireland – equivalent of the modern-day Prime Minister and was the King’s chief minister. A pretty important chap, seemingly and also the county Sheriff between 1318 and 1319, 1323 and 1338-41.

Anthony died in 1343 and his son, Thomas de Lucy, became the Baron. By the time of his death Anthony had been able to hold a market “at his manor of Haydon Brigge” for 20 years, on a Wednesday. He could similarly, by Royal Charter, hold a fair for three days, on the day of St Mary Magdalene (July 22) and the following two days.

What do you call a medieval spy?

Thomas de Lucy and the Building of Langley Castle

The Backdrop

As we’ve seen, the plague (Black Death) had swept past Langley Castle in late 1349/1350. So many people died in England that there was very little labour available and some workmen upped their prices to try to take advantage, moving around and earning lots of dosh from poor folk. A Statute of Labourers was needed, to force labourers to stay in their villages and work for a fixed price, rather than trying to fleece people. If you didn’t abide by the rules, you could find yourself in the stocks – built in each village, to punish those who broke the Statute. End up in there and rotten food and even stones would be thrown at you, so you’d end up whiffy and bruised.



In 1351, just as the castle building would have been underway at Langley, England got gold coins for the first time. 120g of gold make a noble and there was also a half and a quarter noble. The coins depicted a naval victory, off the Flemish city of Sluis in June 1340, with the king in a ship.

Whilst staying away from disease may have been one motivation for building Langley Castle, but there was another. When your house gets flattened, you need one that won't be.

Thomas de Lucy first lived in a manor house that had belonged to his old dad, which was right on the same site as the castle. Being so close to the Scottish border was not exactly the prime location for any home, not with all the wars raging and neighbour troubles and so on, but luckily, from 1316 onwards (after the Battle of Bannockburn, of course), a Pele tower (Staward Pele), just two miles away, was a lookout for any mean-looking, ill-intentioned Scots who might head over the border.

Anthony de Lucy had made sure there were 15 men and 40 light cavalry at the tower but, in his wisdom, Edward III gave the tower to his wife, in 1337. Whether or not that was a good pressie back then is debatable. We can think of better. Anyway, the upshot of all the present-giving (not sure how Eddie wrapped it) was that Anthony's men were withdrawn and the new chaps weren't really up to the job.

That was proved in October 1346, when David Bruce invaded, to take revenge on the English, to please his mate, King Phillip of France, who'd been defeated at the Battle of Crécy, in August (by forces including Thomas de Lucy!)



David headed over the border at Lanercost – just 22.5 miles from Langley, and marched to Hexham, trampling his and the clod-hopping boots of his 12,000 men, right over Langley's land. Just for fun, as they went, they destroyed everything in their path, which included the Langley manor house. Uh-oh. Thomas had no house left.

At that point, it's likely that the penny dropped with Thomas, who may well have not made it back from France at the time, but who then had had lots of good reasons for

-
- a) Building a new home (well, he needed somewhere to live).
 - b) Making it a lot better at defending itself against any Bruces or others with Scottish-sounding names.
 - c) Keeping his family safe.
 - d) Finding a way to spend lots of French loot he'd picked up whilst fighting for the King at the Battle of Crécy and at the later siege of Calais (1347), plus compensation he got from the Royal Exchequer for the damage that David Bruce had caused.
 - e) Wanting protection against the Border Reivers.
-

No wonder that 1350 became the year that Thomas decided to pop some foundation stones down and build our wonderful castle.

(Oh, and by the way, he did get revenge on David Bruce for the property damage. Thomas was one of the knights leading the army that defeated David Bruce at the Battle of Neville's Cross, in October 1346, which took place close to Durham).

The Border Reivers

If all the official fisty-cuffs, sword fighting and spear-throwing wasn't enough in these parts, there was also serious, you-wouldn't-wanna-be-there stuff going on too. This was all down to the Border Reivers, raiders who swept across the border lands between England and Scotland, with only thoughts for themselves, not what nationality they or anyone they were raiding might be. In other words, they'd rob and kill anyone and didn't care about your accent or what flag you waved!

The Border Reivers were often families who'd had enough of English and Scottish kings trampling over their land and destroying their livelihoods, so they took matters into their own hands. They formed tight groups, often based around family ties, and basically stole from anyone else.



The Border Reivers were great livestock rustlers, but that's not all they'd steal, if they could get their hands on it. Household goods and valuables would also be taken and people were frequently nabbed and held as prisoners, for ransom money.

Lawless isn't the half of it and early winter was the time to definitely get your head down, as nights were long and cows and horses were fat. Raiding gangs could number as few as 20 Reivers or as many as 3000 and they'd ride ponies that were pretty clued up when it came to working their way through boglands. Carrying swords, wearing light armour and steel helmets and sometimes carrying crossbows, or in later times pistols, they were fearsome. They also went a fair distance to grab their goods. In 1322, one Scottish raid went as far south as Chorley, in Lancashire.

They played by their own rules too. A person who had been raided was allowed to carry out a counter-raid, to try to recover their goods, within six days. This counter-raid had to be carried out with lots of noise, horns and barking hounds, so the raid wasn't mistaken for a normal raid. A bit bizarre, but rules were rules.



All of this led the kings of both England and Scotland to establish 'Marches' – administrative areas, either side of the border, where a Warden would patrol and try to control raiding across the border. They even oversaw 'truce days', when people were supposed to play nice (but didn't always do so). Some of Langley's barons were March wardens (see below).

The anarchy went on until the Borders were abolished by James VI of Scotland (who became James I of England). A clampdown occurred, though another idea had been that of rebuilding Hadrian's Wall, to keep Reivers on their home patches. Just as well that didn't happen. They might have wanted some of Langley's stones back!

As you can see, there was every reason for Thomas de Lucy to want a stronghold for a house and to build Langley Castle!

Reiver names

Do you have one of these surnames?

Anderson, Archbold, Armstrong, Bates, Beattie, Bell, Bromfield, Burns, Carleton, Carlisle, Carnaby, Carrs, Carruthers, Chamberlain, Charlton, Collingwood, Craw, Cranston, Crisp, Crozier, Curwen, Cuthbert, Dacre, Davison, Dixon, Dodd, Dodds, Douglas, Dunn/Dunne, Elliot, Fenwick, Forster, Gilchrist, Glendenning, Graham, Gray, Hall, Harden, Hedley, Henderson, Heron, Hetherington, Hume, Hunter, Huntley, Irvine, Irving, Jamieson, Jardine, Johnstone, Kerr, Laidlaw, Latimer, Little, Lowther, Maxwell, Milburn, Moffatt, Musgrave, Musgrove, Nixon, Noble, Ogle, Oliver, Potts, Pringle, Radcliffe, Reade, Reed, Ridley, Robson, Routledge, Rutherford, Salkeld, Scott, Selby, Shaftoe, Stamper, Stokoe, Storey, Simpson, Tait, Taylor, Thomson, Trotter, Turnbull, Wake, Watson, Wilkinson, Wilson, Woodrington, Yarrow, Young.

If you do, you could possibly be descended from one of the Border Reiver families!

Thinks that's not very likely? Well, the first man to walk on the moon – Neil Armstrong – can trace his family back to the Reivers, so why not you?

Give it a go. It could be one small step for you to take and one giant leap into the knowledge bank for you and your kind.

Thomas de Lucy in More Depth

Thomas de Lucy was born in Copeland, in Cumberland, in 1311.

‘Where’s that?’, you say, thinking it’s a place where people cope well. Well, actually, it’s just across the border and in what is now Cumbria.

Now Thomas’s dad, as we said, was Anthony de Lucy and his mum was Elizabeth de Lucy. In July 1333, Thomas gained a knighthood, having found favour with Edward III (luckily, not the hugely unpopular Edward II!) By 1338, Thomas found himself on the King’s service in Antwerp (in Belgium, that is).



He was summoned to sit in Parliament in April 1344 and that continued until 1364. Between 1345 and 1350, he was also Sheriff of Cumberland, adding to his job of being Joint Warden of the Western Marches, trying to keep law and order in a very lawless land. This little old task continued until his death.

In 1346, he got the call-up to head to France for the Battle of Crécy, where he distinguished himself. Not a cretin at Crécy one little bit, in fact.

In 1351, he, like his dad before him, became Constable of Carlisle Castle. He was also the ‘escheator’ for Cumberland, Westmoreland and Lancashire. Who’d want a job title like that? Well, Thomas obviously did. It meant he got to deal with escheats – basically upholding the King’s rights, so probably earning quite a few Brownie points with the crown wearer.

Two years later, however, he was having to bargain with the Scots, who wanted David Bruce (King David) released. Thomas had to become a peace-bringer. No more rowing and fisty-cuffs. However, bargaining for peace with the Scots also occupied him between 1360 and 1362. Yes, you guessed it. Rowing and fisty-cuffs had broken out again.

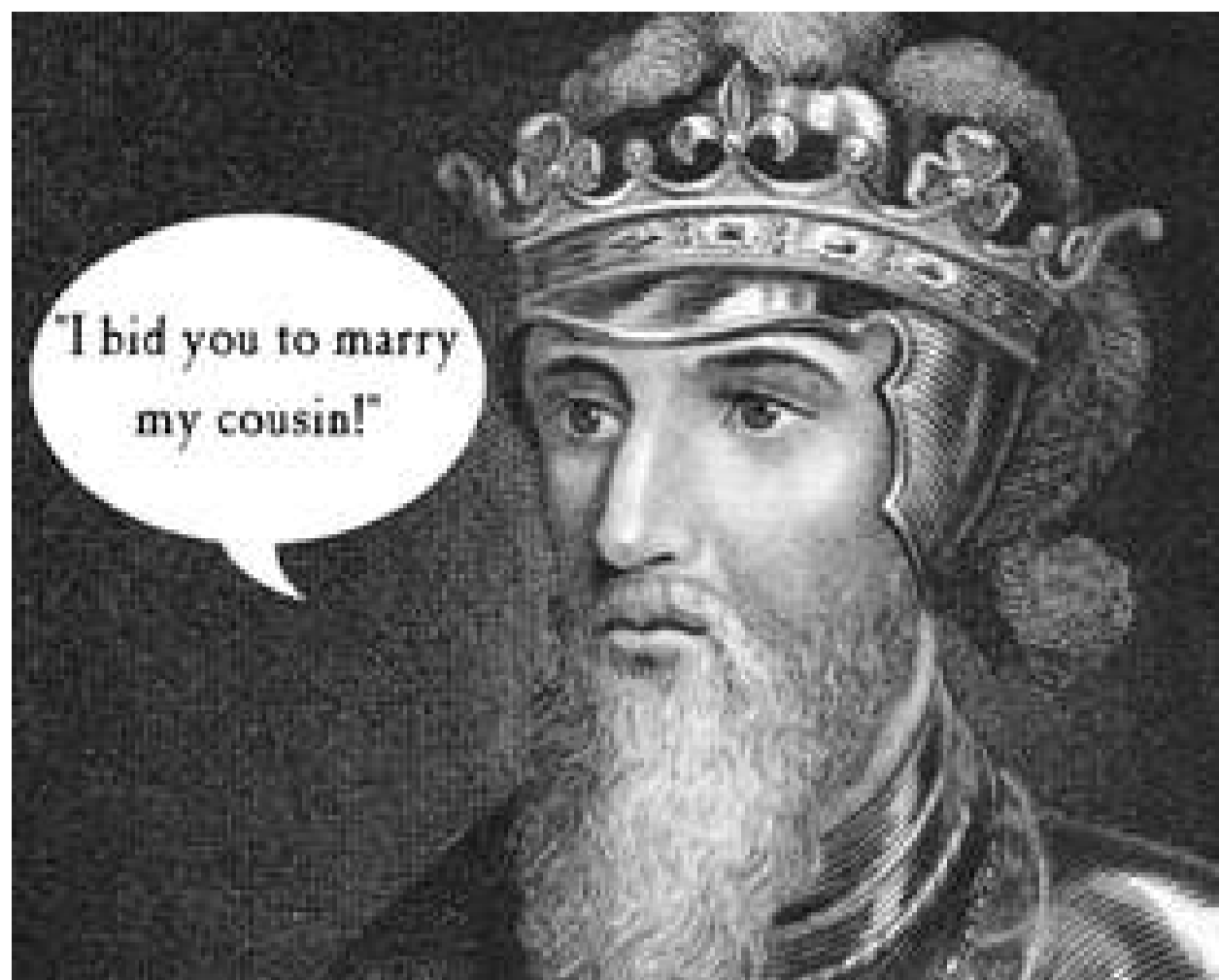
In May 1365, some seven months before his death, the King showed how important Thomas was to him, by giving him an ‘annuity’ for life of 100 Marks – basically a financial reward for being so loyal. Thomas died, in London, on December 5, 1365.

The Wives

Thomas de Lucy was married twice. Around 1329, he married Margaret de Multon, the youngest of three sisters of John de Multon of Egremont. (Once again, someone got rid of the Multon name and became a de Lucy!)

Unfortunately, Margaret died at some time after September 1341.

Then, King Edward III, being as close to Thomas as he was, urged him to marry one of his rellies, Agnes de Beaumont, daughter of Henry de Beaumont.



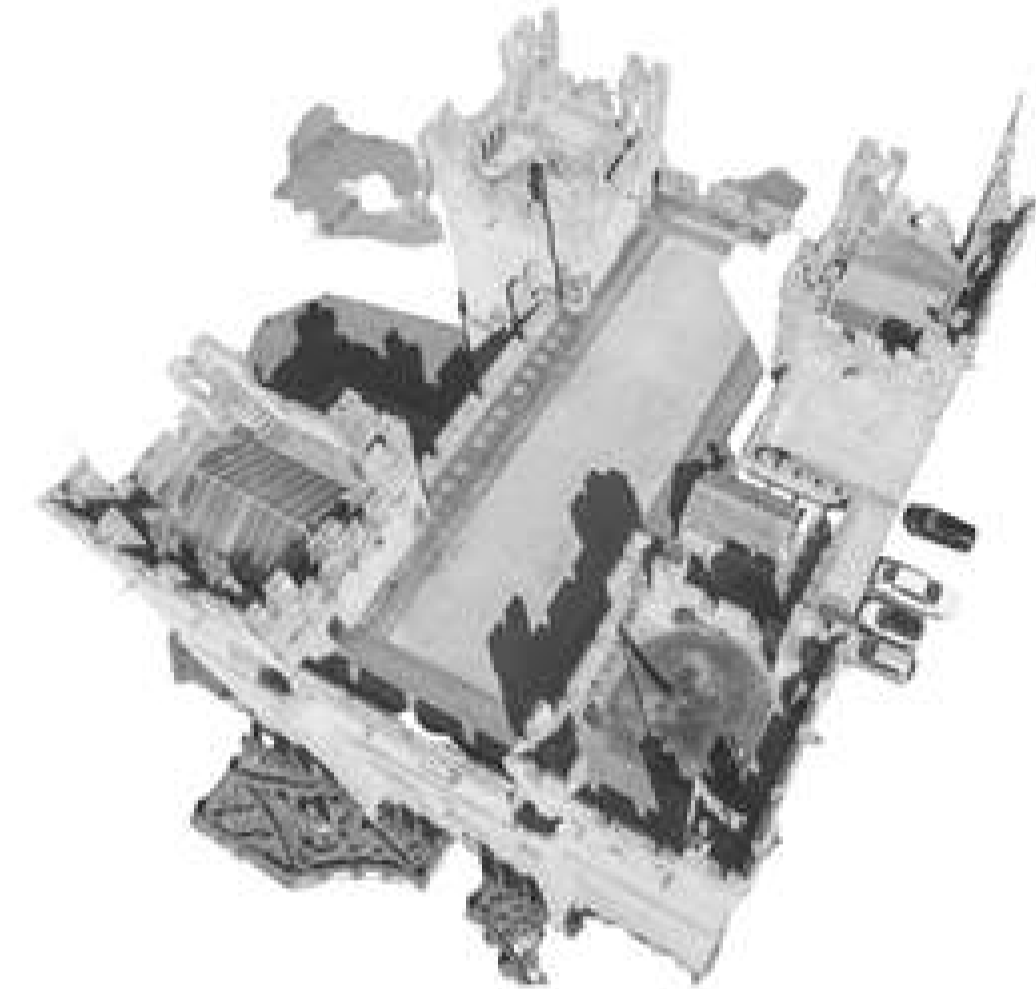
Henry had fought in very many Scottish battles, including Bannockburn, with Edward I and Edward II and III and was of considerable military and political importance, eventually becoming Earl of Buchan. In fact, it was his battle plan that was used so successfully at Crécy. Henry's mother was, ironically, French and he was the grandson of John of Brienne, King of Jerusalem and later Latin Emperor of Constantinople. All in all, Agnes may have been a catch, given how important her dad was.

Thomas obliged and married Agnes in July 1343. And that's about all we know about Agnes, other than that she had no children and was still alive in 1359. We do not know where, when or how she died and therein lies a mystery.

The Building of Langley Castle

So, by 1350, Thomas de Lucy was married to Agnes de Beaumont, had money in his pocket, and perhaps even needed to make sure he took good care of the King's relative.

Langley was built as a great H-shaped tower – like a quadrangle – and one that is 80 feet long and 24 feet wide, internally. Forgotten what a quadrangle is? Better remember fast, before you get back to school!

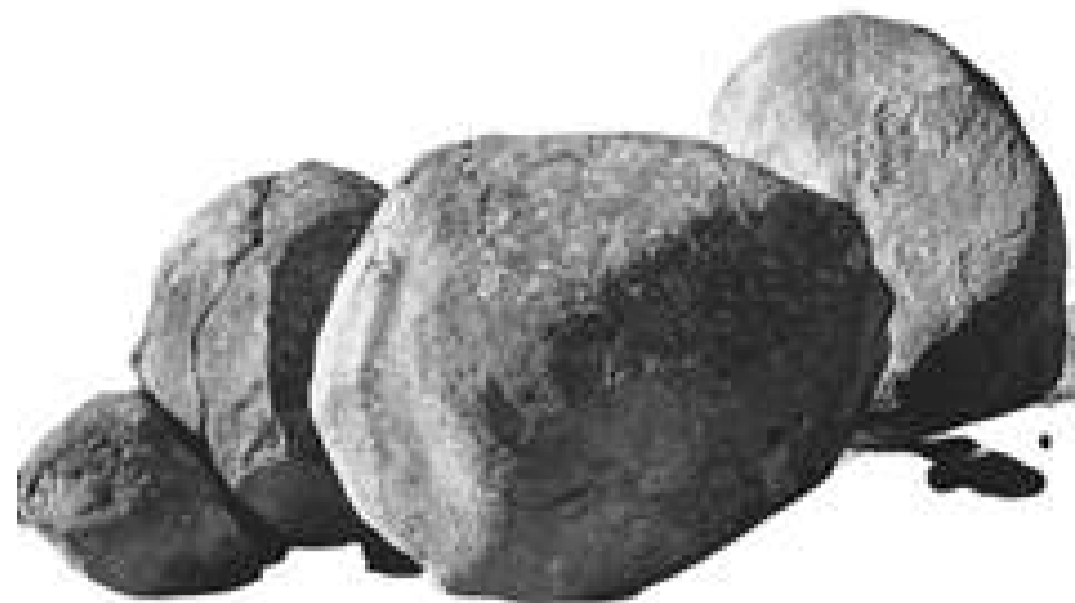


Unlike many castles, Langley had no courtyard (bailey) inside it. It was just one big fortified hall house, with projecting towers at both ends of each long hall. The house had three floors but the towers had four, so these were higher than the building. Each floor had a fireplace, to warm the house and the tootsies of those living in it.

There's some indication that the builders might just have messed up, when Sir Thomas was not around to rap their knuckles. This 'indication' is the 'extra tower' – like a pele tower – that rose from the ground, to the main roof level, clinging to the east face of the house and the east tower's northern wall. This tower contains the original doorway (at the first floor level) and the spiral staircase of the castle, with access into the main block, through an archway, at each floor level. Here, there is also a vaulted guard room on each floor.

Experts can tell us that this tower was built after the rest of the castle, but not that long after and way before Langley was set alight. But nobody knows why. FRUSTRATING!

Langley Castle has no foundations, with its walls being just built on massive boulders. That was a neat idea, as it meant the castle was even better protected and no conniving attacker could mine underneath it and get into the castle from below.



What it does have, in abundance, (12 in fact) are loos – posh medieval loos, actually, or ‘garderobes’ as they are called.

In the South West tower, these loos were available on each floor and they survived the Langley Castle fire, so are now the best example of medieval loos to be seen in Europe. You can see the pointed arch that led to the recess in which the loo was situated and also the stone corbels on which the loo seats sat – before the castle occupants then sat on them!



Flushing toilets weren’t invented until 1596 and were not widely available until 1851, so when the doo-doo was done, it had to drop downwards to the ground, through projections in the wall. That could weaken a castle’s defences but you’d be a brave man to scale a wall that could project excrement at you!

In Langley’s case, tiers of stepped toilets on this outside wall had shafts that sent the waste to a collection point – a pit that was cleaned out by a natural stream.

Garderobes get their name from the fact that people would guard their robes in them. The ammonia in people’s wee would kill fleas on any robes that were hung up in the toilet shaft. That was one way to rid yourself of those pesky, plague-carrying fleas!

So why did Langley Castle have so many garderobes? Well, if you think those Scots are going to be putting you under siege for months, you don’t really want to be surrounded by doo-dos, do you? Better to expel it as much as you can!

Experts think that the lower floor of the castle that you see today was a stable for the castle horses, because it had no internal connection to the rest of the house. What do you think? Yay or neigh? (LOL!)



There is no sign of a moat, as you might see at other castles. In Langley Castle’s case, the strength lay in the building itself and its seven-foot-thick walls, into which the window seats you can see today were built.

The stone building had wooden floors inside it, resting on corbels that you can still see, if you look around. Of course, when Langley was set alight, these wooden floors were destroyed, leaving the resilient stone walls as a kind of ‘shell’.

Maud, Gilbert & Henry

Thomas de Lucy had a son and a daughter with his first wife, Margaret. His son was called Anthony and his daughter was christened Margaret (but known as Maud).

Unfortunately, Anthony died just a few years after his father, in 1368. His daughter Johanna, was only two years old at the time. She died at the age of 4.

That meant that Maud came into the picture, as the heir to the Barony and Langley Castle. Whether or not her father and brother's widows were living at the castle, we just do not know. That's the trouble with Agnes being such of a mystery woman!

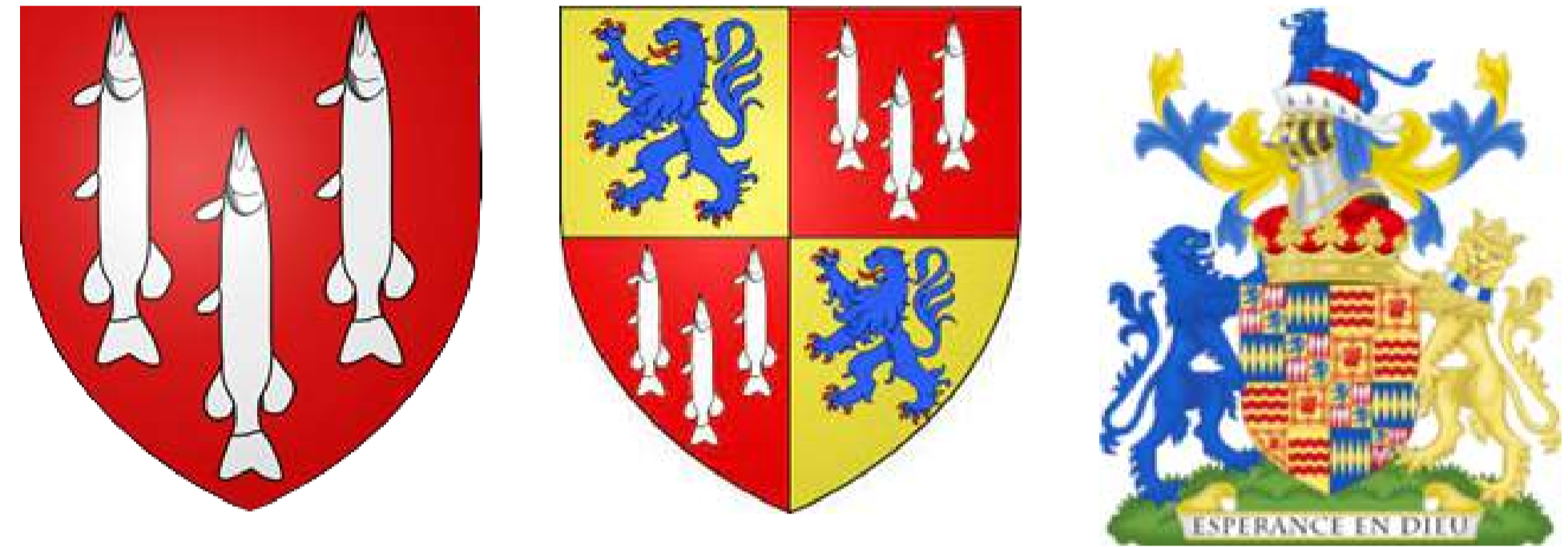
Maud had originally married a knight called Sir Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus. He too had done his bit in battle (maybe put a lot of umph into it) and would have known Maud's father well, having also been part of negotiations to secure a ransom payment for David Bruce. King Edward III summoned Gilbert to Parliament and he sat there until 1381, when he died.

Sir Gilbert has inspired us to call our knight in reception, Gilbert. He's the one on the front cover of this book. He's a very good friend to our loveable Langley Bear, who perhaps once went by the name of Thomas? After all, nearly everyone else did!

After Sir Gilbert's death, Maud married again, finding herself a hubby from Alnwick Castle and bringing the two castles together through the 'I do's'. Maud tied the knot with one of the Percy family – Henry Percy, the First Earl of Northumberland.



If you look at the coat of arms of the Earls of Northumberland today, you will see that Maud had her wits about her and must have been very proud of her family. She said that the family arms of the de Lucys (on the left) had to be combined with those of the Percy family, which happened, as you can see (in the middle). So there was then the Percy lions and the de Lucy pikes (rather nasty-tempered fish) on the Earls of Northumberland's coat of arms. (By the way, that's not literally a coat made of arms but a sort of family logo on a shield!). Even today, you can see the pike in the latest coat of arms (far right).

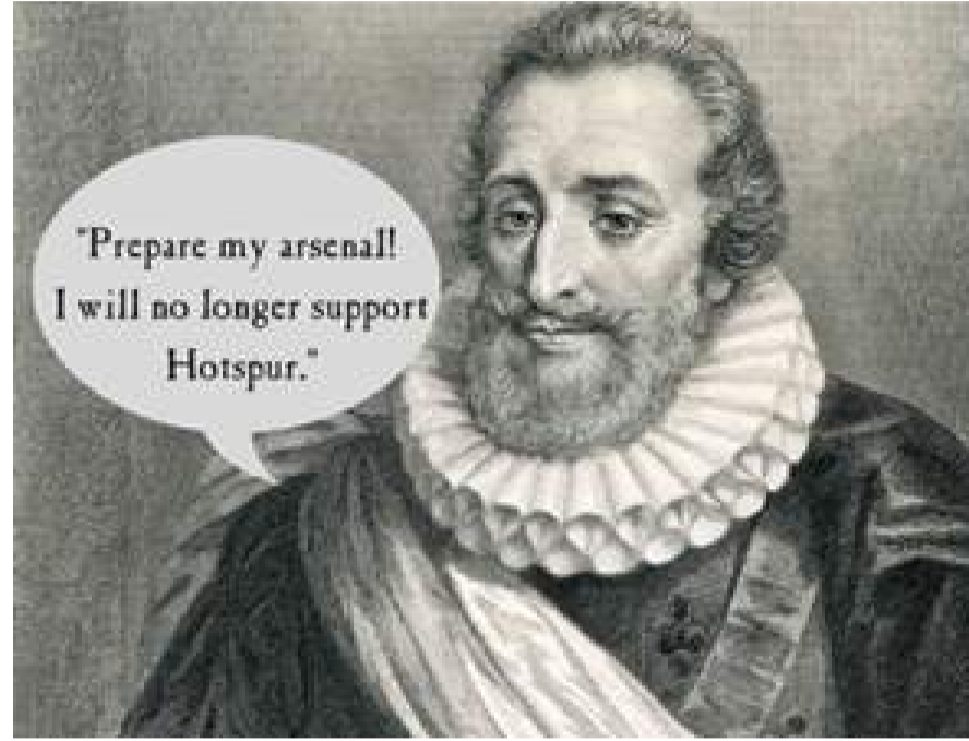


People say these pike appeared, as another name for a pike is a lucy. In battle, folks back then liked to visually show their names, so that's why the fish are there.

When Maud too departed this life in 1398, her burial perhaps shows that the de Lucys were active around St Bees. Buzzing around there, in fact. This is because, when some archaeologists did some digging, they found a mysterious St Bees Man and St Bees Woman entombed together. A big investigation was launched and the experts said these two were bro and sis, Anthony and Maud de Lucy.

Anyway, Maud left the Barony and Langley Castle to her husband's family and that may just have been the deal that sealed the fate of its wooden floors and internal features. (If only she'd known that when she walked down the aisle!).

What Maud didn't know was that her husband would have one rather big fall out with the King – by then Henry IV - which would lead the King to probably be the one who torched Langley Castle. (We think he had anger issues).



The trouble was that Maud's husband and his son (another Henry but one known as Hotspur) swapped sides, having first supported Henry IV (it wasn't that everyone in those days was called Henry, but it sure felt like it!)

Dad Henry and son Henry (Hotspur) had quite good reason, in fairness. They felt they weren't getting enough dosh for defending the border and then, to cap it all, one of their rellies got captured in Wales, whilst fighting for the King, and the King would not offer a bean to pay his ransom.

Probably after a lot of 'shall we' or 'shan't we' chats, The Percys rebelled in 1403. Maud wasn't around to stop them, as she'd died in 1398.

Henry senior and junior marched to Shrewsbury and then suffered a number of defeats, with poor old Hotspur dying on the battlefield at Shrewsbury in 1403.

The trouble with doing all of this stuff is, of course, that whoever you lose to doesn't take kindly to your actions and tends to try to take revenge by destroying everything you own. That, of course, in the Percys case, included Langley Castle!

So, to cut a long story short, it is believed that the fire that destroyed the interior of Langley Castle was retribution for their actions against the King and that it may have occurred in 1405.

Why to peeps think that and not 1403? Well, it followed what was called the Northern Rising against the King, led in part by Richard Scrope, Archbishop of York, who was sort of tied up with the Percy family through the marriage of his bro, John, to the widow of the Earl of Northumberland's second son, Thomas Percy.

Meanwhile, older Henry Percy was still continuing with his rebellious ways and supporting Scrope.

Scrope unfortunately, found a route towards a meeting with the executioner, in June 1405. Henry Percy had hopped over the border into Scotland but, of course, Langley Castle couldn't do the same. The King confiscated all of Henry's property, but didn't really need any more of course, as he was the King!

That's probably what led to Langley's fateful fire, as the King (or his men) decided enough was enough and tried to destroy what Henry Percy owned. By the time Henry Percy returned (1408), Langley had no roof, even though its amazing walls had survived. Henry didn't survive. He went to battle once more – on a moor, in fact (Bramham Moor) – and was killed. His head ended up in London, on display on London Bridge.

Have you heard of William Shakespeare, or Wills as he's known to his mates? Well, he's England's most famous writers of plays and he wrote loads – some funny, some tragic and some just based on history that had happened before he picked up his quill. That's why both Scrope and Hotspur are featured in Shakespeare's play, Henry IV (Part 1).



Barony-less Years

After Henry Percy's death, the barony of Langley – and the semi-derelict castle – stayed with the Percy family until 1461, when the Third Earl was killed in battle, having still been fighting the Crown. Guess what. The Crown wasn't too chuffed again and seized the family's estates, giving the barony (and Langley Castle) to John Neville, Marquess of Montacute. Six years later, back Langley Castle came to the Percys but mistakes were not learned. Duh!

In 1535, Thomas Cromwell – chief adviser to Henry VIII and practically the king of England in all but name, led to Henry VIII pretty much owning Langley Castle, after Cromwell forced the Earl of Northumberland to put the castle up (and gift it to the king) or shut up (and probably go to the Tower for not gifting it to the king).



In 1536, the Earl rebelled against the King during a major rising, known as The Pilgrimage of Grace. He was hung. Totally predictable.

In 1542, Langley was described by Sir Robert Bowes as, "a ruined castle with only walls standing, but situated in a very convenient place of defence against the Scots of Liddesdale and the thieves of Tynedale." In 1550, Bowes recommended that the castle be repaired and given to the Keeper of Tynedale – a government 'peace keeper' with no castle. Nothing happened.

In 1551, it was rented back to Thomas Percy, the nephew of the 6th Earl of Northumberland. But, in 1572, the Crown seized it again, having executed the 7th Earl of Northumberland, following the Rising of the North – another rebellion against the King, but this time in 1569.

We know that, in 1641, John Murray, the Earl of Annandale, held the Barony but that's when another family that really shook up the castle's history got involved. Enter the Radcliffes!

Prepare for more of a rocky road – and we don't mean a cake!

The Radcliffes

Sir Francis Radcliffe

The first Sir Francis Radcliffe (or Radclyffe) was suspected of taking part in the Gunpowder Plot – an attempt to blow up both King James I and his Parliament, on the 5th of November 1605 (note that's exactly 200 years after Langley lost its roof and it still didn't have a roof, even at this point).

Trying to blow up the King isn't a good thing, but failing to do so was far worse for those categorically known to be involved. Luckily, Sir Francis Radcliffe was only suspected of being one of the plotters, so lived.



Luckily for us too, even though the Gunpowder Plot failed, it did give us Bonfire Night, so one good thing came out of it!

Sir Francis lived until 1622 and had the title of 1st Baronet of Derwentwater. That's because he was actually born at Derwentwater, in the Lake District! Things were then passed on to his son, Edward. Langley hadn't yet passed into the Radcliffes hands, but things were about to change!

Sir Edward Radcliffe

Sir Edward Radcliffe basically wanted to be top dog in Northumberland. Unlike his father, he was born in the county, at a place called Dilston. Now, whilst Langley Castle really wasn't that much use without its roof, Sir Edward was 'canny', as we say in these parts. Langley's estate had some rather good money-spinners on its land (you remember, all that land as big as 9848 football pitches). These money-spinners were lead mines, based at Alston. They made a lot of loot and Sir Edward fancied lining his pocket with it and making his family the number 1 surname in the county.

Being 'canny', therefore, Sir Edward decided to buy Langley Castle and its estate. But, the whole plan nearly went belly-up. Sir Edward took the side of Charles I in the English Civil War – a war Charles didn't win.



That was defo the wrong horse to back and Sir Edward had all his property taken off him, being allowed to only sell certain things to get some money to live on. The Langley Barony was one of those. Sir Edward must have wept when he had to sell it to George Hurd, a Londoner, in 1653. He didn't even get chance to get it back, dying 10 years later.

Sir Francis Radcliffe

Sir Francis Radcliffe, son of Edward, was seemingly quite keen on what his father had spotted as a money earner and so raised £10,000 (a sizeable sum back in the 17th century) to buy his father's properties back. In 1687, he became the Earl of Derwentwater, Viscount Radcliffe and Langley and Baron Tynedale. Langley Castle was back in Radcliffe hands.

Now, King James II was very much behind this rise in fortune.

Luckily (at that point) for the Radcliffes, they were very much associated with the Stuart monarchy. Sir Francis's son, Edward, had married the daughter of King Charles II (brought back to rule England after Oliver and Richard Cromwell had chopped off his father's head, ruled and annoyed people somewhat) and a woman called Moll Davis, Lady Mary Tudor. Edward was aged 34 at the time and Mary was just 14!

Sir Francis actually didn't care about Langley Castle. That's why, in 1671, he let others pay rent for it – both the building and the lands to the west – for £30 a year. At this point, chaps called Humphrey Little and Robert Hudspeth ruled the Langley roost, as tenants.



On and upwards went Sir Francis until, by 1688, when the Stuart monarchy had annoyed folk again, the Radcliffes were the most wealthy and powerful Jacobite family in the North of England. If you don't know what Jacobite means all you need to know is that it shows they would do anything for the Stuarts. After all, they were related to them!

Edward Radcliffe

In 1696, Edward Radcliffe number 2 inherited his father's properties. His son, James Radcliffe, was born on the 26th of June, 1689, in London. That made Charles II his grandad.

In 1701, James II died whilst off the throne and having to live in France, perhaps eating frogs legs or just sipping French wine. Who knows? His widow, Mary of Modena, thought her son, James Stuart, the Old Pretender, needed a friend. Who better than his cousin, James Radcliffe?

James was told to pack his case and get out to France in 1702, living in the king's court in France, whilst another two – the Dutch William and Mary – played king and queen in England. It was all quite handy, as James Radcliffe's mother, Mary, had left the family home when he was aged 11. So, he'd lost a mother but gained a royal pal.

James Radcliffe (sometimes described as Radclyffe)

James Radcliffe was still in France in 1705, when aged 16, when his father died and he became the owner of Langley Castle, the Barony and everything else the Earls of Derwentwater owned.

He took his time getting back to England (perhaps the weather was better in France), but he landed again in 1709. In 1712, it was time for him to marry and he did, tying the knot with Anna Maria Webb, eldest daughter of Sir John Webb and from a family of (you've guessed it), fervent Jacobites. She'd met James in Paris and it seems like it was love at first sight (yuck!).

The family home was not at Langley Castle (still a shell of a building following the fire of 1405). They lived at Dilston, where the first Sir Edward was born.

James seemed to fancy a 'Grand Designs' project, so he decided to make Dilston Hall a luxurious home (although he could have really got stuck into some renovation work, if he'd fixed Langley's roof!)



Instead, he got to work with designs for flower gardens, fountains, a forecourt in black limestone and orchards for fruit growing. All was going brilliantly, even though it was still raining in at Langley.

BUT – and isn't there always a BUT? Well, here it comes. Ever since 1690, the folk in the French court, rather annoyed that they weren't having English people doff their cap to them and call them 'Your Majesty', had plotted to return to England. Sailing off in a little boat and landing on the Northumberland coast seemed like a plan but they'd still had an incy wincy bit of hope that they might return to royal duties, as Queen Anne had no kids and people in the know thought that she'd give the Stuarts the wink and invite them back, once she popped her clogs.

Unfortunately, she did that unexpectedly and hadn't put the plan in place. Instead of the Stuarts, England got a German King and one who couldn't even speak English! By 1714, George I was on the throne and even Queen Anne's advisers didn't like having to work with him. They started to stir up the Jacobites, encouraging them to get rid of the German 'intruder' on the throne.

Most support for this great masterplan was found in the North and so was the rather Stuart obsessed Anna Maria Webb. Whether it is true or not, James Radcliffe didn't much fancy leading a Jacobite uprising – perhaps being too busy with his fountains - but his demanding wife kept pecking at his head.

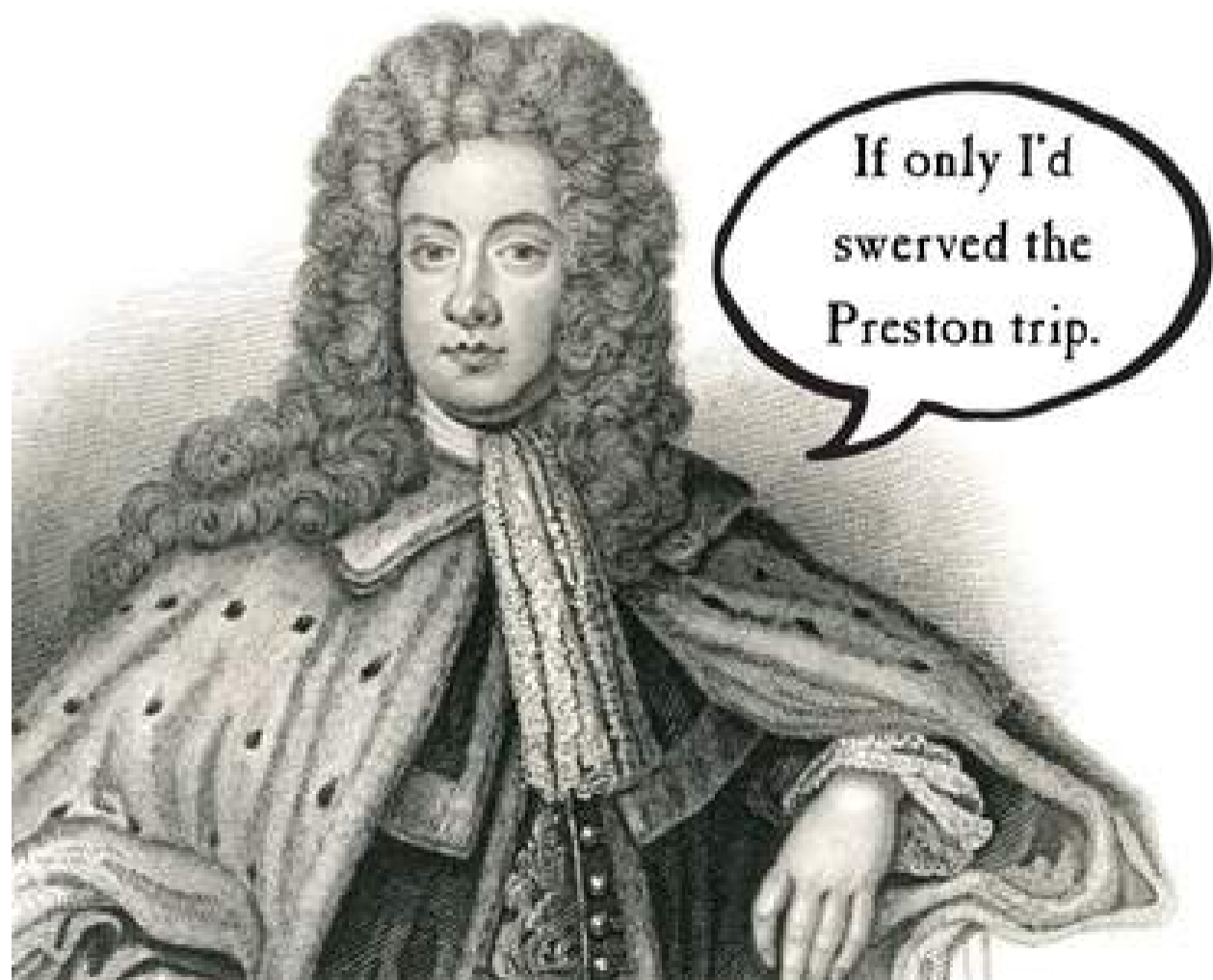
In 1714, therefore, he found himself having to lead troops in a march on Preston, from where they would continue to march south, say 'auf wiedersehen' to the German King and have the Stuarts live happily ever after. It's said that James got an inkling this might not be the case, given that he and those around him had virtually zero military experience. Supposedly, having had this lightbulb moment, he tried to turn back, but was told to 'man up' by Anna Maria, or whatever women said to their husbands back then that meant the same. He had to lead the march after all, or maybe face a frying pan round the head.

Guess what? The Battle of Preston went spectacularly badly and he was captured (little surprise there, then!)

To give Anna Maria her due, she may not have had a frying pan, did move into the Tower of London with James and did try to save his life. She and her aunt even made personal pleas to the King. What use that was, when he spoke no English, is hard to say. Anyway, what he did say was 'nein'.

There's just a chance we are maybe being too harsh on Anna Maria, as others say that it was his younger brother Charles who insisted James head to Preston. Charles, as we will see, was a bit extravagant and headstrong. So it could be true. Younger brothers, hey!

Someone, then messed things up somewhat for James Radcliffe, by offering a bribe of £60,000 to Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, for a pardon. Walpole was having none of it and James was beheaded on February 24th, 1716, after pleading his devotion to James III and the Catholic religion.



His brother Charles, however, had a stroke of good luck. He was held at Newgate Prison and someone left the door open! He managed to escape to France, with another 10 or so people also getting out before the jailors remembered they were supposed to keep people locked up.

Having grown up with the Old Pretender, the Jacobites absolutely expected James Radcliffe to support their cause and lead a rebellion, so had he not marched to Preston, he would probably have been called a yellow-belly and not been on the Christmas card list. He was, after all, of Stuart blood himself. The Government had signed a warrant for his arrest before he even took one step on his fateful journey, guessing he would rebel, but he actually went into hiding, rather than swotting up on any military tactics. It was only when Thomas Forster raised the Pretender's 'standard', that James and some of his armed servants from Dilston joined him. Talk about not being keen!

The Jacobite supporters had expected to raise lots of support in Newcastle, but didn't. This is thought to be why inhabitants of Newcastle are named Geordies (George's men), as they stayed loyal to George I.

It's all such a shame really, as James Radcliffe was much loved and it was said that he "seemed to live for others." He carried out lots of acts of charity, gave bread to thousands of needy families, both Catholic and Protestant, and was very hospitable and kind. The people trusted and almost revered him.

That much was clear after his death. It is said that, on that day, the Northern Lights shone particularly bright over the North East, leading to them being known as Lord Derwentwater's Lights. Ballads (folk songs of their age and often involving bagpipes or Northumbrian pipes in these parts) were also written about him, in adoration of this fine man, who had done so much for others. These include, 'O Derwentwater's a Bonny Lord' and 'Lord Derwentwater's Farewell.'

Here are some words, so sing along!

Farewell to pleasant Dilston Hall
My father's ancient seat
A stranger now must call thee his
Which gars my heart to greet
Farewell each friendly, well-known face
My heart has held so dear
My tenants now must leave their lands
Or hold their lives in fear
And when the head that wears the crown
Shall be laid low like mine
Some honest hearts may then lament
For Radcliffe's fallen line
The warning bell now bids me cease
My trouble's nearly o'er
Yon sun that rises from the sea
Shall rise on me no more
And fare thee well, George Collingwood
Since fate has put us down
If thou and I have lost our lives
Our King has lost his crown
Fareweel, fareweel, my lady dear
Ill, ill, thou counselled me
I never more may see the babe
That smiles upon thy knee

Poor James's body was burned in London by his servants and his heart brought back to Dilston. It was then transferred to a Paris chapel for safe-keeping.

His wife, Anna Maria, whether guilty of driving him to all of this or not, left to live in Brussels, where she died, aged 30, in 1723, having contracted smallpox. Their son, John, died at the age of 19, after a surgical procedure went wrong. This was as gallstones or kidney stones were being removed. All in all, apart from Charles and the unlocked door incident, they didn't have a lot of luck!

Charles Radcliffe

Charles was, as we said, the younger brother of James and rather more reckless. In fact, James paid off his debts several times, as Charles had a bit of a spend, spend, spend mentality.

He does have a claim to fame. Born in 1693, he is one of the very few men who took place in the Jacobite risings of both 1715 and 1745.

Another brother, Francis, probably escaped any of the fame or infamy of being associated with the Jacobites, by dying, in France, in May 1715. That probably saved him from a visit to the Tower too.

Anyway, having escaped death at The Tower in 1716, Charles spent years with the Jacobite court in Europe. But he also did a bit of Channel hopping, even though there was no tunnel back then! By adopting an alias – Mr Thompson – he is said to have returned to England in 1733 and 1739, with the full knowledge of the government. He even lived in London for a while in 1733 and wasn't arrested.

He was quite a big-wig in France for many years. In 1724, he married Charlotte Maria Livingston, having supposedly previously had a wife in Northumberland (Meg Snowdon) who died. Charlotte Maria was very wealthy and the couple spent some years in Rome, moving there in 1738 and joining the Jacobite court. There he spent years as the private secretary to the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie.

But then things got interesting. In 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, decided to make an attempt to seize the English throne and landed in Scotland, to invade England from there, with the support of many Scottish highlanders.



The good times were about to stop rolling. In November 1745, a few months after Charles Stuart had won the Battle of Prestonpans, Charles Radcliffe boarded a French ship that was taking arms and supplies to Montrose in Scotland but it was intercepted in the North Sea, by HMS Sheerness. He and his son, James, were captured.

Being a repeat offender on the Jacobite uprising score, there was absolutely no mercy for Charles. He too was beheaded at The Tower, like his brother 30 years earlier, with his fate being sealed on 8th December, 1746. James was released.

Charles is actually the last English man to have suffered that fate, though he'd probably rather not be in the record books for that! I mean, who would? It is possible that his heart was taken to be with that of his brother.

Bonnie Prince Charlie didn't succeed in becoming Charles III, losing the Battle of Culloden in April 1746 and having to flee to Europe, via the Isle of Skye. The Skye Boat Song remembers this journey. The Stuarts never regained the throne.

Radcliffe Memorials

If you walk a little bit down the road from Langley Castle, you will see a memorial to the two Radcliffe brothers. A cross on the roadside between Haydon Bridge and the castle was erected by the castle's later owner, Cadwallader John Bates, and may be the only Jacobite memorial of its kind in England. Flowers are regularly left there.

The memorial reads:

“To the memory of James and Charles
Viscounts Langley, Earls of Derwentwater,
beheaded on Tower Hill, London,
24th February 1716 and 8th December, 1746
For Loyalty to their Lawful Sovereign.”

If you also wander around the grounds of Langley Castle, you will find a bench donated to the castle by the Northumbrian Jacobite Society, in memory of the castle's association with the Radcliffes.

Langley after the Radcliffes

The ‘treachery’ of the Radcliffes led to the Crown seizing their estates and giving the Barony and Langley Castle to the Royal Hospital for Seamen in Greenwich. As we know by now, this was typical behaviour by whoever was on the throne when a rebellious subject had annoyed them (or tried to kill them).



The Crown didn't want to get its hands so much on the castle and Dilston Hall (the latter actually being demolished in 1768) but did fancy all the money from the Alston lead mines and the Langley smelt mills, which processed the output of the mines. Funny how history repeats itself.

Many of the mining rights were leased out, so rent money could be earned and used to support seamen who had been wounded or disabled at sea, or who were aged and needing help. By 1814, there were about 2710 men living at the hospital and the money from the mines would be very handy for their upkeep.

In 1833, a man called Mr Patterson worked out how to separate silver from lead, removing fumes from the smelting process and the mines were booming.

So, for a while, it was happy days for the Royal Hospital and its coffers. Then, from 1882 onwards, along came foreign competition. The mines weren't then earning all the lucre that had made them so attractive. It was time for the Crown to sell them off and get out.

In 1873, 1877 and 1882, much of the Langley Barony went under the auctioneer's hammer. When Langley Castle went up for auction in 1882, along with some of the surrounding farms, it was bought by a man called Cadwallader Bates and its fortunes started to change.

Cadwallader John Bates



Cadwallader John Bates, a man with a Welsh heritage and hence his rather unusual name for us English folk, also had strong links to Northumberland, where his great uncle, Thomas, was a stockbreeder (keeping and breeding animals).

Cadwallader was born on January 14, 1853, at Kensington Gate, London and studied at Eton and Cambridge University, so had some good brainpower. However, his eyes were not as good and his education at Eton was disrupted by huge weaknesses in his eyesight. He even had to take a special degree at Cambridge, because of this disability.

He was a man who loved to travel, particularly to see his uncle Edward, in what was then a country called Prussia. He inherited that uncle's property and then also inherited the family lands in Northumberland. He must have been a popular nephew, as he actually inherited the property of four of his uncles in total!

In 1882, having bought Langley Castle, he set about restoring it – yes, putting back all of the interior that had been destroyed in 1405! Just imagine what a task that was. But it was all tied up with his hobbies and interests and, in fact, he wrote a History of Northumberland, in 1895 and started a work on the lives of St Patrick and St Gilda. He was also an expert on the medieval history of Northumbria so Langley Castle naturally fascinated him.

He brought in an architect from Durham, Mr Hodgson Fowler, and together they planned Langley Castle's restoration.

In 1890, he became the High Sheriff of Northumberland and was also a magistrate and a deputy lieutenant, having a lot of prestige in the county.

In 1893, when visiting Europe, he entered the Roman Catholic church and took Catholicism as his religion. Two years later, in 1895, he married Josephine d'Echarvines, a French resident from the Savoy region of France.

Sadly, he passed away of heart failure at Langley Castle, on March 18, 1902, before he saw his dream of renovating the castle completed.

Josephine d'Echarvine

Josephine continued to restore Langley Castle, with this extensive work believed to have continued until 1914. She herself passed away in 1932 and the graves of this devoted wife and her husband are to be found in Langley's grounds.

One of her major achievements was to create a chapel on the Langley Castle battlements and you can visit that, if you're able to take one of the castle's daily Battlements Tours. But, the thing is, creating a chapel isn't just a matter of putting in some pews and an altar. You need permission and Josephine's lasting legacy here is down to the fact that she travelled to Rome, asked for an audience with Pope Leo XIII, and got that! Not an easy thing to do.



So what do we know about Pope Leo XIII, other than he was the good guy who let us have a chapel? Well, he wasn't called Leo at all but Vincenzo Gioacchino Raffaele Luigi Pecci. As Leo is a lot shorter, he probably liked it when he had to take a new name as Pope! All that form filling must have been so much quicker!

He was born on March 2, 1810, in Rome, and lived to the age of 93, only passing away on 20 July, 1903. He was called the ‘Rosary Pope’, because he recorded 11 different ‘encyclicals’ about the rosary. He was also the first Pope to have his voice recorded and the first to be filmed by a motion picture company. He was semi-vegetarian and put his long life down to eating a diet containing little meat and instead eating eggs, milk and vegetables.

He was also responsible for putting the Catholic church back in touch with the working class and he did a lot to campaign for worker rights. He sounds like a very good person and, thanks to him, we have a unique feature on our battlements.

The Intermittent Years

With Langley finally restored and with a roof after nearly 500 years without one, you would have thought it was all plain sailing but the castle entered into the doldrums a little, after Josephine’s death.

The Second World War came and Langley Castle was used as a barracks.

By the 1950s, with the Second World War having raged, it had become a girls’ boarding school. Just imagine that! Living and being in class here every day! It must have been like Hogwarts!

Then, by the 1970s, it has become a venue for the staging of medieval banquets. (Ask your parents who Tim Healy is, as he was a jester at these medieval jamborees!).



Then, Langley’s current story began. 1986 came along and the castle was bought by its current owner, Dr Stuart Madnick.

The Dr Madnick Era

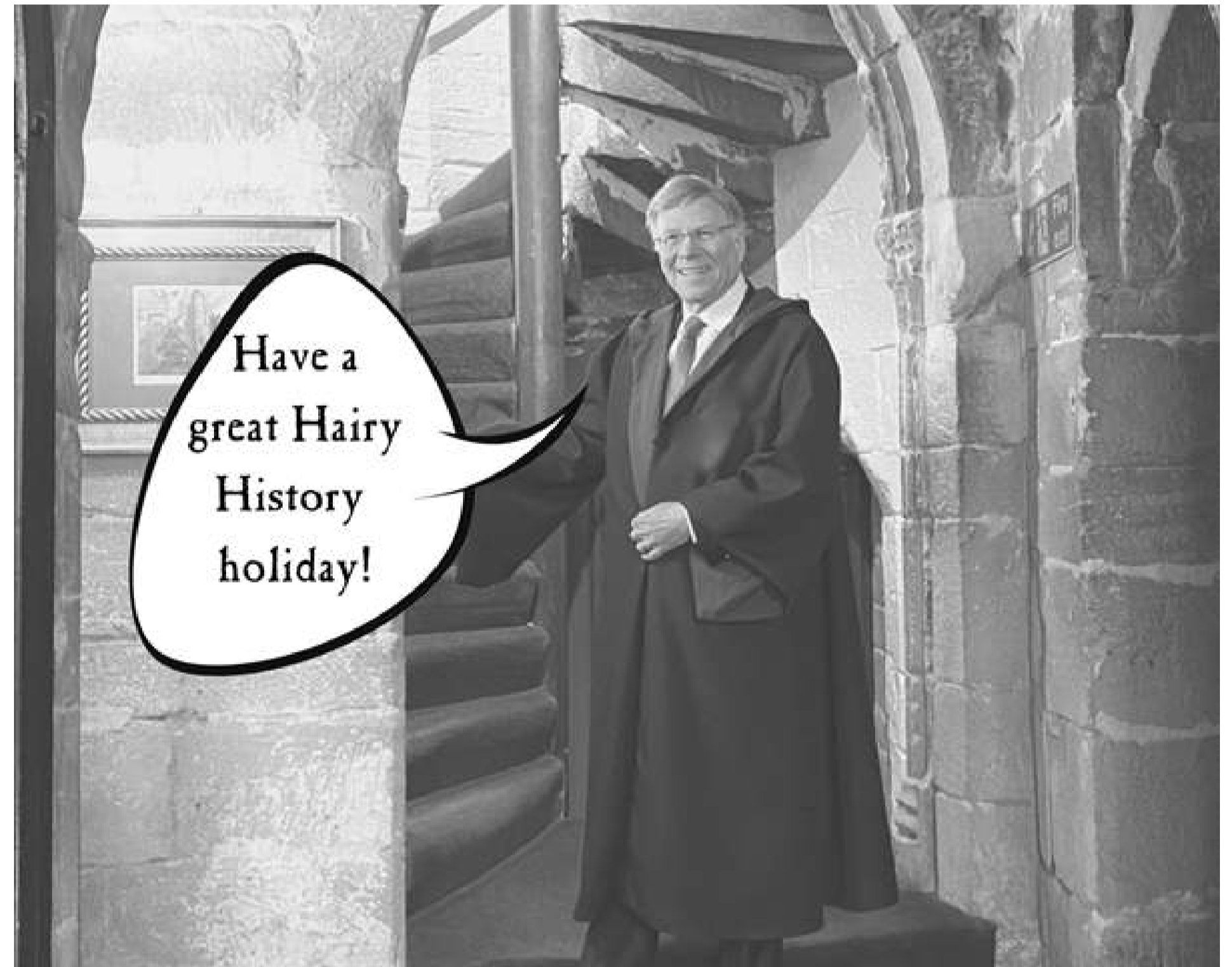
Dr Stuart Madnick is an American professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, in the USA. He was in the UK, when a friend told him to go and look at a castle that was for sale. He did and he bought it!

Over the years, Dr Madnick has turned Langley Castle into England’s leading fortified medieval hotel, meaning kids like you can stay in it! He developed the former stables, turning it into Castle View, so even more of you could stay!

He also, most importantly, brought the title of Baron back to Langley Castle, following its loss after the Radcliffes' actions. So officially, he has been Baron of Langley since 2007, joining the line of Barons that we have already talked about. Just as Cadwallader John Bates’ wife Josephine was French, so too is Dr Madnick’s wife, Yvonne.

Luckily, history has not been as ‘hairy’ in Dr Madnick’s time and he has celebrated his time at the castle with the burying of a time capsule, in a huge Nebuchadnezzar champagne bottle, in 2016, to celebrate his 30th anniversary of ownership.

He also became one of the founders of Northumberland Day, the county day of Northumberland, in 2017, marking that with the creation of the World’s Biggest Stottie Cake – a local delicacy in these parts. This remarkable stottie cake was 1 metre in diameter and weighed 15kg before being filled with pease pudding and ham, which took its weight to 60kg!



Now, on his 35th anniversary, he brings you this Hairy Histories booklet, so you can love the history of Langley as much as he does and appreciate all that is around you. Just look at it with new eyes, learn more about the cool history we’ve talked about and really impress your teacher and classmates when you get back there! Not many will have lived history, during a holiday, like you have!

Photo Credits

Wellcome Library, London. Wellcome Images
images@wellcome.ac.uk <http://wellcomeimages.org> Royal Naval
Hospital, Greenwich, the river front vista, with the Queens' House and
Royal Observatory in the distance: many people walking about.
Engraving by J. Newton after T. Lancey. Lancey, Thomas, fl. 1779-
1821. Engraving By: Thomas Lancey after: Nicholas Hawksmoor and
Christopher Wren and James Newton Published: -

Copyrighted work available under Creative Commons Attribution only
licence CC BY 4.0 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/Show>
extended details

Answers

- 1.Silent Knight
- 2.To get the feather forecast
- 3.Sir Veillance
- 4.Knight time
- 5.Moatzarella
- 6.Nobody's Fool