



## 7. Educational approaches – ideas for using Hussey Tower in class activities

Aspects of the history, archaeology, architecture and form of Hussey Tower, as well as its relationship to the town of Boston, provide a wide range of opportunities at all key stages and across the curriculum.

The suggestions and activities given here have been designed for use mainly at Key Stage 2 and include things to do during a visit to Hussey Tower as well as ideas for activities at school. For some of the activities you will need one or more of the accompanying downloadable sheets.

We have also included a list of useful contacts for other people who may be able to help you take your Tudor studies further, Lincolnshire organisations and businesses, and re-enactment companies who can provide living history sessions, traditional craft workshops etc.

You may find it useful to also use our computer-generated reconstruction images of Hussey Tower, which can be viewed and downloaded from this website. They show what Lord Hussey's manor house might have looked like in about 1500 and help to put the remains that can still be seen today into their original context.

See the *Visiting Hussey Tower* section for information about arranging a school visit to Hussey Tower.

### Activities

#### 1. Looking at Hussey tower activity sheet

A worksheet to help you to take a closer look at Hussey Tower during a class visit. You will need to go inside the tower to answer some of the questions on the sheet. Download the worksheet and the Hussey Tower floor plan.

#### 2. Hussey Tower wordsearch

Download the wordsearch sheet and look for the hidden words connected with Hussey Tower.

#### 3. Exclusive manor house For Sale!

It is 1475. Richard Benyngton, the man who built Hussey Tower, has recently died and you are the estate agent in charge of selling his manor house. Using text, pictures, plans and maps etc design and produce a brochure advertising the house for sale. You could do this either by hand or on a computer. (You could look at some present day advertisements for large houses for sale for ideas to get you started). How would you describe the house? What kind of person do you think





would want to buy it? How would you try to persuade them that Hussey Tower is the right house for them?

#### 4. Amazing mazes

Mazes (or labyrinths as they are sometimes called) were popular in the medieval and Tudor periods. They were a giant outdoor puzzle that provided entertainment for a wealthy family and their guests as they tried to find their way to the centre of the maze and back out again. It is quite possible that there would have been a maze in the garden of Hussey Tower and we have shown one in our computer reconstruction of the house and grounds. Try designing your own maze with twists, turns and dead-ends in the path to the centre.

#### 5. A day in the life of ..

Use as many sources as you can to research what daily life would have been like for a particular member of Lord Hussey's household (for example a cook working in the kitchen, a lady-in-waiting to Lady Hussey, Lord Hussey's steward in charge of running the house).

#### Or - A letter from a boy who has been sent to live in Lord Hussey's household.

Imagine that you are a boy from a wealthy family who has been sent to live in Lord Hussey's household. Write a letter to your mother at home and tell her what life is like for you and how you are getting on.

#### 6. Artefact activity

This activity helps to illustrate the differences between people from different sections of society in the early Tudor period and how they lived:

Download the artefacts activity sheets. Follow the instructions on the sheets and see if you can identify the objects with which Lord Hussey, his family and household, and the people of Boston at that time might have been familiar. Match the objects with the people who would have owned and used them.

This activity could also provide an illustration of the properties of different materials and how they decay. Because the town of Boston grew up close to the River Witham the ground beneath it is waterlogged. This means that its archaeology tends to be very well preserved and even organic





materials such as leather and wood, which wood usually rot away quickly, often survive very well.

### 7. Strictly Come Tudor Dancing:

Download the Tudor music and dancing resources. The recorder was a popular instrument in the medieval and Tudor periods, and dancing was enjoyed by all sections of society. The Tudor music that we have provided dates from the early years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is written for descant recorder. Lord Hussey and his family and friends may well have danced to it themselves. We have also included some simple Tudor dance steps to go with it, but once you have mastered this you could choreograph your own Tudor dance instead.



### 8. Build your own Hussey Tower

See *The Building of Hussey Tower* section:

This activity could take in a walk around Boston to look at some of its buildings and investigate the patterns in which their bricks have been laid. Back at school, using building bricks such as Lego, experiment with laying the bricks in different ways to build walls. See if you can lay the bricks in English Bond to build a wall in the same way that Hussey Tower was built.

### 9. Grow your own Tudor garden

Help your local bees and butterflies while you learn about science and Tudor history. The section about Daily Life at Hussey Tower includes a list of some of the flowers that may have grown in the gardens at Hussey Tower in about 1500. Your school could grow its own early Tudor garden using seeds from the sorts of plants that the members of Lord Hussey's household would have recognised. If you created a raised bed using wooden boards the garden would be even more authentic.

A good local source of traditional seeds is Growing Wild in Boston. Tel: 01205 359 935.

### Early Tudor food

The Tudor period was the time when the world was being explored and new foods were being discovered, and many more foods were available at the end of the 1500s than at the beginning. Although Boston had very strong connections with Europe, foods from further afield such as turkeys,



potatoes, tomatoes would all still have been unknown to Lord Hussey's household in 1500.

Design a menu for a grand Tudor banquet using foods that would have been available to Lord Hussey and his guests.

The diets of rich people were very different to those of ordinary people. We have provided 2 recipes for you to download. One is for Tudor gingerbread, a sweet treat containing expensive spices that would have been mainly eaten by rich people. The other is for a pottage, which was a thick soup – like stew that would have made up an important part of ordinary people's diets.

### Some useful contacts for further activities:

#### Boston Guildhall Museum

The museum is a fantastic place for a school visit to discover more about the history and archaeology of Boston and of the Guildhall building.

The museum has a handling collection of artefacts that are available for schools to borrow. The artefacts boxes contain a selection of real and replica objects from the medieval and Tudor periods that can be used for a range of activities in the classroom.

Telephone: 01205 365954.

#### Company of Artisans - Traditional brick and tile making

Company of Artisans can bring a wide range of workshop and living history activities linked to traditional building skills and techniques to your school.

Web: [www.companyofartisans.co.uk](http://www.companyofartisans.co.uk)

Email: [contact@companyofartisans.co.uk](mailto:contact@companyofartisans.co.uk)

Telephone: 01949 860959

#### Lord Burgh's Retinue – living history re-enactments

Lord Burgh's Retinue provide accurate reconstructions of all aspects of life in the late medieval period tailored to your requirements. Their website is also a fantastic resource for finding out more about daily life during the period.

Web: [www.lordburghsretinue.co.uk](http://www.lordburghsretinue.co.uk)



**English Free Companye - living history re-enactments**

Another re-enactment society offering high quality living history reconstructions of life in the late medieval period.

Web: [www.englishfreecompanye.org](http://www.englishfreecompanye.org)

**Growing Wild seeds (Boston)**

A local seed company who are a good source of traditional wildflower seeds.

Telephone: 01205 359935