

# Lesnes Abbey Children's University Activity Sheet

## The Monks' Garden

This part of the Abbey is a re-creation of a typical medieval monks' garden. The canons would have kept their medicinal herbs and plants here, which were used to heal the local sick. (Hint: they are all herbs/flowers that the canons would have used regularly)

Your challenge: can you solve the anagrams below

1 – VEENLARD (This purple flower was used as an antiseptic)

2 – GLMARIOD (An orange flower, used to ward off the plague)

3 – SCHIEV (To this day we flavour our food with this herb. The canons used it to aid digestion)

Answers:

1 - .....

2 - .....

3 - .....



## Abbey Ruins

The ruins you are looking at once formed part of a magnificent abbey over 800 years ago! It was founded by Richard de Luci who was Chief Judiciar of England (this was the medieval equivalent of Prime Minister!). He had the Abbey built to try and atone for his part in the murder of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury!

Canons lived here – they prayed, healed the sick and gave help to poor people in need.

The buildings here would have consisted of a church, cloister (a covered walkway around a square garden), cells (where the canons slept), kitchens, refectory (where they ate) and perhaps extra buildings used as a hospital and for meeting local people.

But what is a canon? (Please circle)

- a) A weapon that fires large metal balls
- b) A kind of Christian monk
- c) A medieval politician



### Roesia

Roesia was the great-great grand-daughter of Richard de Luci. She grew up here and loved it very much. She eventually married and moved away to Dover, but when she died as an old lady, part of her was buried here. This was because she hoped it would help her to get to heaven.

Your challenge – Find the plaque on the wall of the ruin  
What part of Roesia's body lay here?  
.....

### The Mulberry Tree

This very old mulberry tree was planted over 400 years ago on the order of King James I. The king wanted to start a silk industry and planted lots of mulberry trees for silk worms to feed on. But he planted the wrong kind of mulberry trees and the project never happened!

Did you know - King James 1 became king when he was only 13 months old!

But what he is most famous for?  
.....

(Hint: we celebrate it on 5<sup>th</sup> November)

Houses of Parliament



King James 1



### **Lesnes View Point**

You can see all the way to The Shard and Canary Wharf from here! What an amazing skyline.

Your challenge: Sketch the skyline from the viewpoint. Either draw today's skyline or how it might have looked in the time of the canons of Lesnes.

### **The Capped Well**

This is where the canons would draw up their water – there were no taps in those days!

Your challenge: What sort of treasure might be hidden at the bottom, left over from 800 years ago?

Draw or describe below



Lesnes Abbey Woods

