

# TUDORS

Explore Winchester's Tudor history and  
test your knowledge of the period

In 1485 Henry VII became the first king of the Tudor royal family. Times were unsteady during this period with the end of the war of the Roses, Black Death and the Hundred Year War, causing Winchester to be in a steady decline. However a succession of Tudor Monarchs still favoured Winchester choosing for key events to occur here, follow this leaflet to see what you can discover about Tudors in Winchester.



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# WOLF HALL

## in Winchester

Winchester's historic cityscape makes it a popular film location for period dramas. The city provided a backdrop for the acclaimed Tudor drama *Wolf Hall* (2015) – adapted from books by author Hilary Mantel. Winchester Cathedral, the Great Hall and the Hospital of St Cross (a medieval almshouse) all offered convincing settings for various scenes.

Why not book a walking tour that takes in some of Winchester's famous landmarks from the Tudor times? Winchester's Tourist Guides run a special Tudor walking tour on request. Visit [winchestertouristguides.com](http://winchestertouristguides.com) or contact Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500 for details.



## Tudor monarchs

One of Henry VII's favourite houses was Winchester Castle where his first son, Arthur, was born and then christened at the cathedral, the first Tudor royal ceremony to be held in the city.

When Arthur died, Henry's second son Henry VIII became king. Probably best known for having six wives, Henry VIII caused a great political and religious upheaval when he split from the Catholic Church of Rome and established the Church of England, thus giving him the freedom to remarry.

In 1522, Henry entertained the King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, at Winchester Castle's Great Hall, when Charles was able to look at the newly painted Round Table with its central Tudor rose and portrait of King Arthur.



2. How many Knights of the Round Table are there? Can you name some of them?

The painting is a real bit of Tudor one-upmanship. Arthur in the picture looks like the bearded Henry, and Arthur's fame had spread throughout Europe and formed an integral part of the Chivalric Code. The point being made by the picture is that Henry could trace his family back to King Arthur and then to the emperors of Ancient Rome. This was further back than Charles V who at that time was Holy Roman Emperor. The position of the Tudor rose motif at the centre of the painting emphasises Henry's legitimate right to the throne.

When Henry VIII died in 1547 his son Edward VI, aged nine, became king. During this short reign – he was fifteen when he died – his religious policies led to the arrest and imprisonment in the Tower of London of many leading Catholics. Amongst these were the Bishop of Winchester, Stephen Gardiner, and the Warden of Winchester College boys' school, Dr John White.



1. How good are your Roman numerals? How are numbers 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 written?



3. About this time William Shakespeare was writing. Can you name any of his plays relating to the Tudors?



**Did you know?**  
After its Tudor decline Winchester would not flourish again until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the railway was built.

The next Tudor to come to the throne was Mary I – a Catholic who became known as ‘Bloody Mary’ because she imprisoned Protestants and burned 300 at the stake. Her marriage to Philip II of Spain, another Catholic, was unpopular. They married in Winchester, part of the reason being that there was less likelihood of a riot there than in London. The wedding took place on 25 July 1554: a grand ceremony in Winchester Cathedral, but a miserable marriage.

Our last Tudor was the great Elizabeth I, the second daughter of Henry VIII. Her reign, sometimes called a Golden Age, began in 1558 until her death in 1603. She was a determined leader in dangerous times, totally committed to her role as queen, so much so that she ordered the execution of her cousin – another Mary – Queen of Scots.



Claire Foy as Anne Boleyn on set at the Hospital of St Cross in Winchester during the filming of *Wolf Hall*. © Company Pictures/ Playground Entertainment for BBC. Photograph by Giles Keyte

## Mary & Philip’s wedding

25 July 1554 – St James’s Day  
(patron saint of Spain)

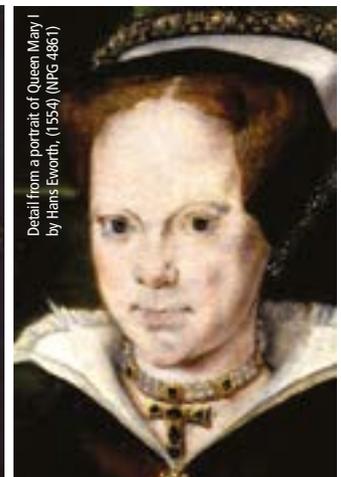
In July 1554 Philip sailed up the Southampton Water to **Southampton**, whereupon Mary called ‘all noblemen, gentlemen, ladies and others’ to Winchester for the wedding. She moved to **Wolsey Castle** in Winchester as Philip travelled to the city, stopping off at the Hospital of St Cross on the way. He entered the city through Southgate to the sounds of trumpets, bells and cannon shot. Later that day, he met Mary for the first time where a courtier pronounced her ‘old, badly dressed and almost toothless’. However, the wedding took place, with the cathedral hung with tapestries and banners that covered the damage caused by Henry VIII’s men during the religious conflict known as the Reformation. The King and Queen then set off along the Roman road to **Basing House**, 20 miles north of Winchester. A month later, Philip left for Spain, returning three years later for a few months before leaving again, forever. Mary died shortly after.



Sixpence, called ‘The Kissing Coin’, issued to mark the wedding of Mary and Philip



Detail from a portrait of Philip II, King of Spain after Titian, (1555) (NPG 4175)



Detail from a portrait of Queen Mary I by Hans Eworth, (1554) (NPG 4861)

Images of Philip and Mary courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

# THE WINCHESTER TUDOR TRAIL



## Tudor Wintonians

### The schoolmaster who could dole out punishments

In 1535, Dr John White was appointed headmaster and then warden of Winchester College. In Edward VI's reign he was sent to the Tower of London for his religious beliefs but released by Mary I and made Bishop of Lincoln, and later, Bishop of Winchester. He commissioned a painted ceiling in celebration of Mary's wedding. You can see this ceiling in the Westgate. He carried out Mary's religious policies and had Thomas Benbridge burned at the stake.



Detail of a woodcut from  
Foxe's Book of Martyrs

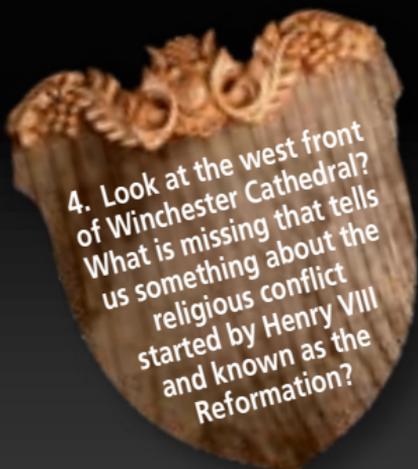
### Broiled and burned – another victim of religious intolerance

Thomas Benbridge was a Hampshire landowner. When he refused to attend Catholic Mass he was found guilty of heresy and sentenced to be burned to death. He suffered two attempts to burn him before he died. Bishop John White, as he was then (see above), was partly responsible.

### A victim of Henry VIII's change to Protestantism

Elizabeth Shelley was the last abbess of St Mary's Abbey. After she surrendered the abbey to Henry VIII's men in 1539, the nuns were expelled and Elizabeth continued to live there in almost uninhabitable conditions. She is buried in the chapel of Winchester College.

4. Look at the west front  
of Winchester Cathedral?  
What is missing that tells  
us something about the  
religious conflict  
started by Henry VIII  
and known as the  
Reformation?



## A Catholic with good intentions

Ralf Lamb was a member of Bishop Gardiner's household who attended Mary and Philip's wedding. His portrait shows him dressed in Spanish style, painted by a Spanish artist. He left £400 to St John's Hospital (opposite the Guildhall) to buy houses for the city's poor. With this money, St John's purchased the building now known as the Dolphin in the High Street (there is a stone dolphin carved above the door). The Hospital's Lamb and Flag coat of arms can be seen on the St Thomas Street frontage of the Dolphin, now an off-licence.

Portrait of Ralf Lamb, dated 1554. On view at the Westgate.



Portrait of William Paulet, Lord Treasurer and 1st Marquess of Winchester. On view at the Guildhall.

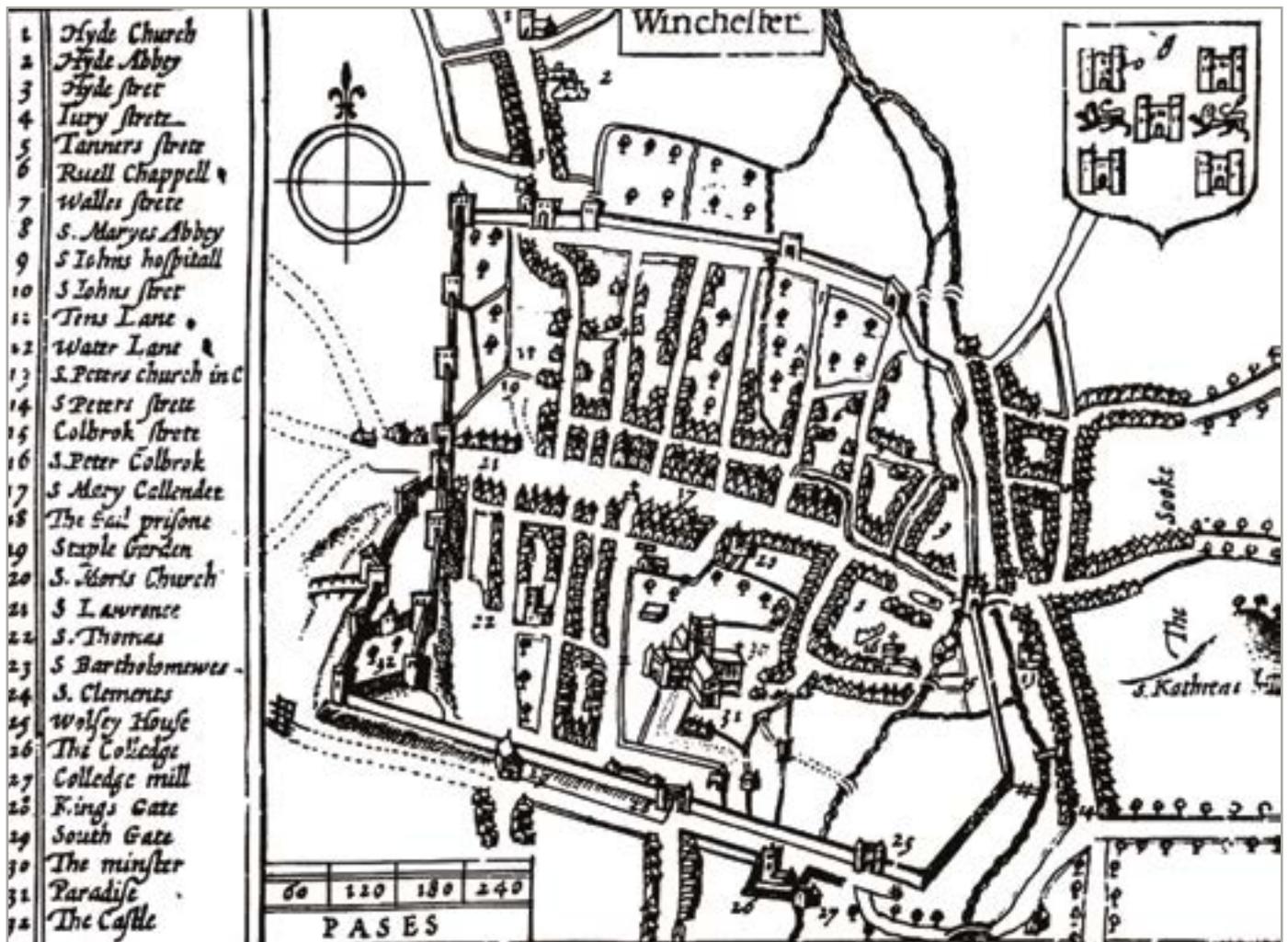


5. Walk around the College area and look for the checkerboard-effect garden walls, known as 'diaper work'. Where do you think the stones came from?



## The treasurer who did a U-turn

William Paulet, 1st Marquess of Winchester, served as Lord Treasurer of England under three Tudor monarchs. At first he was firmly against Mary's marriage to Philip of Spain, and was heard to swear that he would 'set upon' Philip when he landed. He later changed his opinion and entertained the wedding party at Old Basing on their way to London.



Speed's Map of Winchester, 1611. Speed's Map of Winchester was drawn seven years after the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. The city walls and Castle (32) are still standing. Hyde Abbey (2) and St Mary's Abbey (8) have been levelled and most traces removed. The cathedral (31) has lost its cloisters. The Bishop's residence of Wolsey Castle (25) was by then in ruins and is not shown.

## The Soke

This word means an administrative area, in this case under the Bishop rather than the Queen. In Tudor times the Soke on the east of town was one of the richer areas of Winchester.

In St John's Street you'll find a good example of a Tudor merchant's house (now privately owned). Opposite is the church of St John's in the Soke whose accounts in 1591 show that the sum of 3 shillings was spent on 'drinking and the ringing' of its bells to celebrate the visit of Elizabeth I.



6. Why do you think the bottom part of a Tudor building is stone, and the top is wood and plaster?

## The Westgate

One of five medieval gates, this was the main entrance into the city. The two stone shields on the west front were a sort of noticeboard where the coat-of-arms of important visitors were painted on. In the Westgate Museum you can see Dr John White's painted ceiling, as well as Tudor objects.

## Winchester Castle and the Great Hall

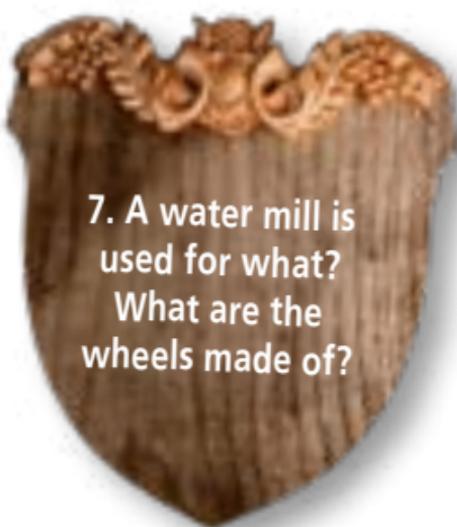
One of the strongest fortresses in Britain, started in 1070 by William the Conqueror, the Great Hall was built in 1222 and is one of the finest surviving medieval halls. In 1603, the year Elizabeth I died, the courts moved here from Westminster to avoid the plague. It was here that the one-time favourite of Elizabeth I, Sir Walter Raleigh, was tried and found guilty of plotting with Spain against England.

## Wolvesey Castle

Since Saxon times, the bishops of Winchester lived here. More a fortified residence than a castle, it was here, in 1554, that Mary I stayed before her wedding to Philip of Spain, and this is where she held her wedding banquet. After that, the building gradually fell into disuse.

## City Mill

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the mill was one of 13 in the city. Reflecting the decline of Winchester in Henry VIII's time, the mill was neglected and ceased working. The site was given to the city to help pay for the cost of Mary and Philip's wedding in 1554. The mill was eventually restored in 1743.



## St Mary's Abbey

This was one of the main nunneries in England. Abbess Elizabeth Shelley (see Tudor Wintonians in this leaflet) gave up the house to Henry VIII and soon after it was abandoned. Mary gave the land to the city to help cover her wedding costs. The site is now occupied by the Guildhall, and Abbey House is the residence of the Mayor of Winchester.

## St John's Hospital

Founded by the city's merchants in 1294 to care for the elderly and unwell, it was this hospital that Ralf Lamb gave money to (see Tudor Wintonians). Under a city charter issued by Elizabeth I in 1587, St John's Hospital was run by the city until 1829, when it became an independent charity.

# The Tudors beyond Winchester

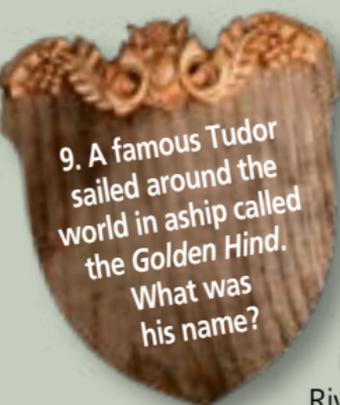
Journey out of Winchester a few miles and you will find these interesting places with Tudor connections.

Before her wedding, Mary travelled to Winchester from London, staying with Bishop Gardiner at his castle in Farnham and then on to his palace at Bishop's Waltham. This medieval palace stood in a 10,000-acre park and had been a favourite hunting spot for Henry VIII. Bishops occupied the palace until the early 17th-century when it was destroyed during the Civil War. The extensive ruins are worth a visit today, and events are sometime staged there. Tel: 01962 840 500.

**Old Basing House**, home of the Lord Treasurer, William Paulet, was a huge castle, converted in Tudor times into a large private house. Mary and Philip were entertained there after their wedding. The house, like many others, was damaged in the Civil War and fell into ruins covering about 10 acres. Today you can see the remains of Tudor kitchens, towers, and a recently recreated early 17th-century formal garden. Tel: 01256 467 294.

To the south is the famous seaport of **Portsmouth**, where in 1494 Henry VII built a square masonry tower.

A year later he added a dockyard where royal warships could be built and repaired. Fifty years later, Henry VIII built **Southsea Castle** at the harbour entrance. It was from here that Henry saw disaster strike his ship the *Mary Rose*: she sank in Portsmouth Harbour. You can see her now in the Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth.



The south coast and the Solent in particular had to be protected against the marauding foreign ships and **Calshot Castle** and **Hurst Castle** were both positioned to do just this, Calshot at the entrance to Southampton Water, and Hurst Castle further west.

Further inland, **Mottisfont Abbey** stands in beautiful countryside near the famous River Test. Originally a 12th-century priory, it was made into a private house after Henry VIII's split with the Catholic Church. Tel: 01794 340 757.







Mark Rylance as Thomas Cromwell on set in Winchester during the filming of *Wolf Hall*. © Company Pictures/Playground Entertainment for BBC.  
Photograph by Giles Keyte.

## The streets of Winchester

The royal wedding of Mary and Philip in 1554 brought about an intensive clean up of the city. Streets were cleaned and 'le rubbishe' carted away. Heralds were paid for 'proclaiming' the King and Queen on their entry into the city, the town was decorated with flags and the Queen's trumpeters, footmen and men-at-arms all received gifts of money.

### Hotels and inns

Tudor Winchester had over 100 inns and alehouses and so was well able to cater for the guests at Mary and Philip's wedding (a number that probably doubled the city's population). Most of the inns were on the north side of the High Street, near the Buttercross, while most of the alehouses and taverns were opposite them, including one behind the Buttercross called 'Hevene' and next to it one called 'Helle'.

### The Buttercross

At the heart of the city centre, now pedestrianised, this medieval monument is a traditional meeting place for Wintonians (people of Winchester). Originally known as the City Cross, it was first mentioned in 1427. It was from here that the mayor would read out public announcements and give news of royal births, marriages and deaths.



The ruins of the Bishop's Castle of Wolvesey



The City Bridge with the City Mill behind

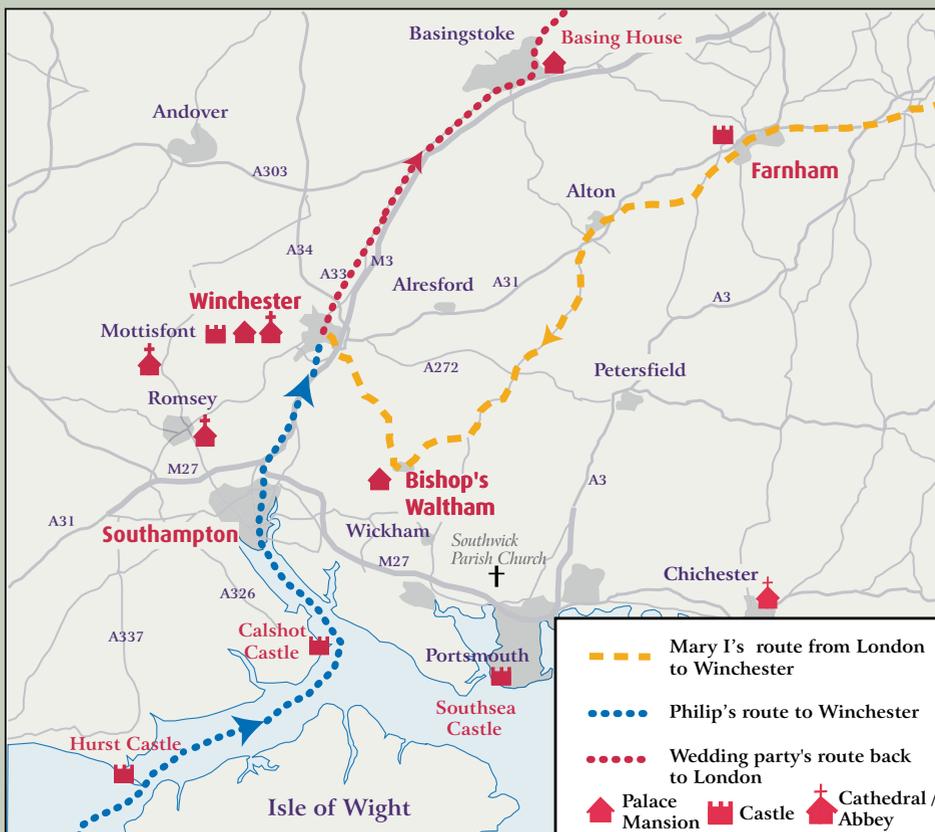
At **Southwick**, you can see the church of St James. Rebuilt in 1566 by John Whyte (a servant of the Earl of Southampton), it is a rare example of a post-Reformation Tudor church and well worth a visit. The interesting thing about the church is its date. At a time when churches were either being torn down, or their decoration removed, here is a church that was newly built. It is especially noteworthy for its three-decker pulpit, its gallery, reredos (screen behind the altar) and box pews. There are monuments to John Whyte (d.1567) and his wife (d.1548).

### Did you know?

Henry VIII is said to have had over 70,000 people executed while he was king. Winchester had its own gallows sited to the north of the town, off the Andover Road. At the Jolly Farmer pub there is a list of names of people executed. Beaumont (see city map) was the place where people were burned at the stake.



Bishop's Waltham Palace



The map shows the area around Winchester and places of interest relating to the Tudor period. Towns mentioned in this leaflet all appear on this map.

### Quiz answers

- 10 is X; 50 is L; 100 is C; 500 is D; 1,000 is M. Try writing 1554.
- There are 25 knights. Some of the names are Sir Galahad, Sir Lancelot du Lac, Sir Gawain, Sir Mordred. Can you add to these?
- Richard III (Battle of Bosworth); The Merry Wives of Windsor; Henry VIII.
- All the niches are empty. The statues were removed along with all other images of God or the saints in human form. Similar empty niches can be seen on the east face of Westgate.
- Winchester has no local stone other than flint. Most of the square stones came from the Isle of Wight, which is about 45 kilometres away. The stones were part of the two abbeys, Hyde and St Mary's, that were torn down during the time of Henry VIII.
- The stone-built cellar was fireproof so this is where the merchant kept his expensive goods. Because stone was expensive, the living areas were made of wood and plaster.
- Mills were, and still are, used for grinding corn. The wheels were made of wood, and later ones of stone, quartz being the best material for its hardwearing quality.
- Formal gardens are laid out in a precise way. Plants would include herbs that were spread on floors to improve the smell of a house.
- Sir Francis Drake



### VISIT WINCHESTER

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