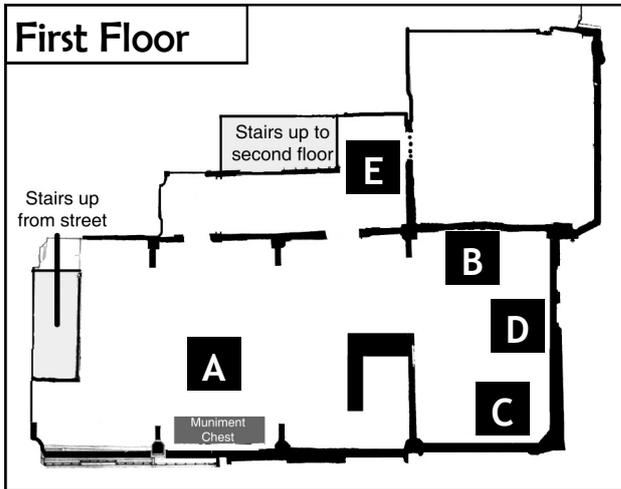


Glimpse the secrets of the Guildhall

The Guildhall is a very old building.
Can you find out when it was built?



Because it is so old it is very wobbly in places. We are going to look at the way the Guildhall was built and used. The letters on the plans show you where to find the answers to the questions.



Start on the first floor by the reception desk

A This area looks like one room but originally it was split into 3 separate ones. You can see the grooves in the beams where the walls were.

Can you see the enormous chest? It was used to store very important papers. Why do you think it had four locks?

B The inside walls of the Guildhall were filled with wattle and daub. Wattle was made by weaving twigs together to make a frame and this was covered with clay mixed with other things. What sort of materials did they mix with the clay?

C There are a lot of timbers supporting the roof in this room because the room above sticks out further over the street. These timbers make up what is called a **dragon beam**. Can you count how many timbers they used?

D The Guildhall was put together like a model kit – there weren't any written instructions but carpenter's marks show which pieces of wood fitted together. An X would match up with another X for example.

Can you find some of these marks?
How many can you see?

Can you draw some in the box?

E Go through the door into the hallway at the bottom of the stairs. The room on the other side of the gate is one of the wobblest. Look through the door – we think it looks like an old ship's cabin. Do you?

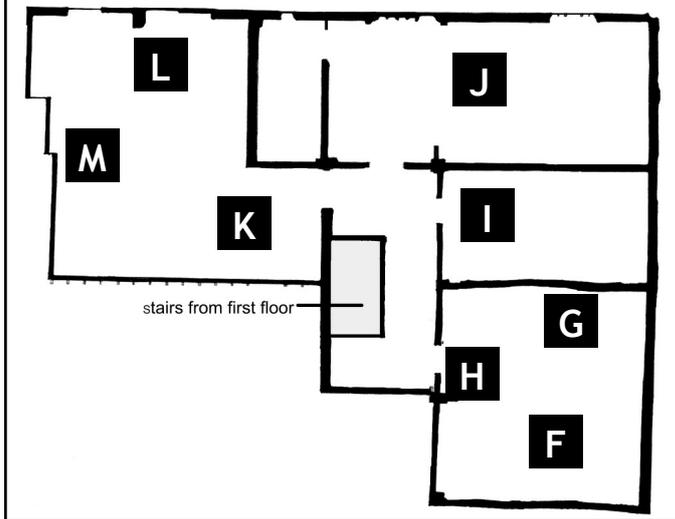
Which Guild do you think used this room?



If you haven't been upstairs yet—wait until you are told to go.

Second Floor

Start on this floor in the room opposite the stairs



F This is the Tanners Room. Tanners turned cow skin into leather. They used some really horrible, smelly things to do this. Can you find out what they used?

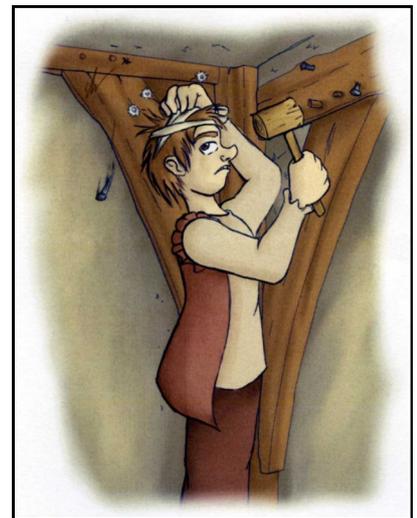
G Also in this room is a large banner from the Weaver's Guild. Look carefully and try to spot: Monsters Lions Leaves

Tick the boxes when you have found them.

H Did you know that the timbers of the Guildhall were held together by wooden pegs – no nails or screws? Look for some of the pegs. How many can you see?

Look into the next room

I This is one of the smallest Guild rooms. Can you work out which Guild used it? Why do you think their room was so small?



J The next room is the Merchant's room. They were a very important Guild. Look out of the window and try to imagine how busy it would have been in Tudor times when the town centre would be full of stalls.

Some of the Guild still meet here today. Can you find out which ones and write 3 of them down? Then go into the last room.

K This final room looks very different. It was rebuilt in Victorian times so looks more modern. Which Guild do you think met here? Which object gave you a clue?

L The beams in the ceiling and around the windows are very old though and people have carved names or dates in them, perhaps the dates when they were meeting, or when some building work was being done. What is the oldest date you can find?

M Finish your visit to this room with a look at our painting of what we think the street outside would have been like in Tudor times.

Can you write down 3 things that are being sold in the market?

If you haven't done the downstairs section yet—now is the time.