



Read All About It!

Dane Court students make news

Students at Dane Court Grammar School are delighted to introduce you to their newspaper: "**DCGS Chatter**".

Reporting on the happenings and 'chatter' around the school, they aim to share information, spread the word on current events, and provide a forum for the voice of the Dane Court community to be heard.

Not only that, they plan to impress you with interesting facts, make you smile with their humour *and* develop competitions so you can win great prizes!

DCGS Chatter, inspired by students and currently produced by our Year 7s, 8s and a smattering of 10s, meets at their headquarters in the school library on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.



Team DCGS Chatter at their library HQ

Full credit to Mrs 'Martha' Baker, and the awesome Food Technology team, who work tirelessly to put on this amazing display in conjunction with the History department run by 'His Royal Highness', Mr Baker.

For photos of the event see pages 3 to 8.

Medieval Banquet Feature

On Wednesday 14 March, medieval mayhem ensued at the annual Dane Court Medieval Banquet. This first edition of **DCGS Chatter** features the merriment that the 2018 revelry saw in a sawdust and hay-filled arena.

The culmination of the hard work by Year 7 during the term in Food Technology, the banquet is a testament to the creative genius of Mrs Judith Baker, and has been running since the inception back in 1995.

News

King Henry's speech - he says peasants are revolting!

More on page 3

News

DC community saddened by tragic news.

More on page 16

WIN a medieval banquet prize or your very own pet worms! See our competitions on page 15



Coming up in this edition of the DCGS Chatter...

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The King's Speech

What a meany!

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Revolting Peasants

Ugh!

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The Paparazzi were out

Have you been spotted at the banquet?

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Guests share their opinions

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Fun! Fun! Fun!

Banquet night entertainment



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How bold!

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They're illuminating



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Monk's Habits

Holy guacamole!

Page 15

Want to Win It?

Then you have to be in it!



Words from the Editor

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the DCGS Chatter!

Peasants revolting, huh? It's been too long since a good takeover, and this time it seems rather justified, seeing the way old Henry seems to be focusing on himself rather than his loyal subjects at this (rather lavish) banquet. Elaborate as it was, however, its reasons for existing were far too subtle for my taste. What ever happened to speaking your mind, Henry? Well, at least he'll always be loyal to mummy.

If you fancy winning a bucket of worms, take a look at our competitions on page 15. Not my idea of fun but you can't account for the taste of others - ugh!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chatter team for the great deal of time and effort they have put into getting this newspaper started. They are waiting, pens poised, to hear from you, why not join us if you really want a say and to see your name in 'print'. Email us at DCGSChatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

See you next time!

AONM

Meet the



hatter



eam...

Jenny Allan 7D * Erica Cousins 7D

Isabella Barrs 7S * Isaac Bright 7S

Tasneem Daud 7H * Ana Macura 7H

Sophie Tyler 7T * Jamie Raven 8S

Jaan Richards 8S * Jacob Cherry 10S

AONM

with a little help from

Mrs Finlay & Mrs Hutchings

The King's Speech

EXCLUSIVE: King Henry's banquet speech



y Lords, ladies and peasants. Last December I was crowned King Henry II of England. I am also **Duke of Normandy** because my great grandfather was **William** Duke of Normandy, the conqueror of England. I am also Duke of Aquitaine through my marriage to my lovely wife **Eleanor of Aquitaine** (for all you ignorant and smelly peasants Aquitaine is in **France** over the sea) I would like to announce that I have just made myself **Lord of Ireland** as well so I'll be sorting out the primitives over there.

"I have finally become king after that dastardly **Stephen**, who seized the throne from my beloved mother **Matilda** finally died last year. For the last 20 years this country has known nothing but blood, gore and the sword as my mother and I have fought against that cursed Stephen in a war that shook this country to the core. May nothing but plague, pestilence and terror come on those who supported Stephen. May he and his supporters be eaten by vermin and worms.

"I have now defeated Stephen's barons and am processing round the country celebrating my success at banquets such as these. There will now be a time of peace and prosperity as I rule over my dominions. I have appointed my good friend **Thomas Becket** as **Archbishop of Canterbury**. He will make sure that there are no problems between the Church and myself and that my reign will be a time of peace and harmony.



King Henry II & his lovely wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine



Blah! Blah! Blah! Yawn!

"We have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. So in a moment we will eat, drink and be merry. But first, I must call the priest to say grace, for which we will all say Amen at the end."

What are your views on this?

Take a look at what our Editor's response is on page 2!

The Revolting Peasants

Reported by Jacob Cherry, That Guy

Peasants in the middle ages were mainly **agricultural farmers** who worked in lands that were owned by a lord. The lord would rent out his land to the peasants in exchange for economic labour. Peasants were **tied** to the land and were not allowed to move away from the land or change their profession unless they became freemen. To become a **freeman** a peasant would have to buy a plot of land or pay dues to the lord.

In addition to the labour that they provided to the lords, peasants in the middle ages also contributed some of their agricultural produce to their masters as a form of payment. Large majorities of peasants were **villeins and serfs**; in theory, the villeins had more rights when compared to the serfs and fewer obligations to the lords. However, in reality there was almost no difference between them.

Peasants in the middle ages saw this as an opportunity to ask for better working conditions and wages. Peasants began to move from one manor to another looking for a lord who was willing to pay higher wages. This movement threatened the foundation of the **feudal system**, which required the farmers be bound to the land that they toiled. Interestingly, it was the lords who were encouraging farmers to move from one land to another as each promised to pay higher wages than the next lord.

The **government** in England moved in to stop this movement and to maintain the feudal system by imposing the **1351 Statute of Labourers**. This legislation prohibited lords from paying peasants more than the normal wages and prohibited peasants from moving from their villages.



Peasant throng at banquet



Punishment for those who dared to question!

The government in England also imposed the **Poll Tax** for a third time, causing the lords to raise taxes paid by the peasants. The earlier statute and this poll tax aggravated the peasants who under the leadership of **Jack Straw, Wat Tyler** and **John Ball** began a revolt in **1381**.

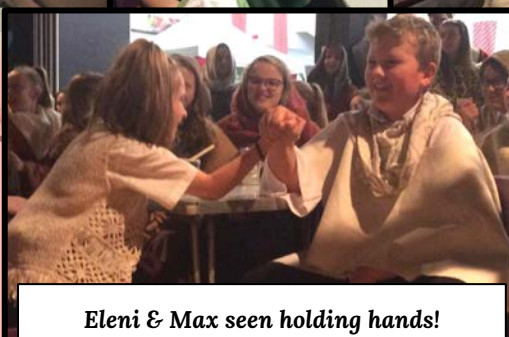
For more information take a look at http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/peasants_revolt/revision/1/

Medieval Paparazzi

A k-night to remember!



Clockwise from top: knights, lords & ladies; a pleasant peasant, the riotous peasants; the lasses; the rebels; the arm wrestlers; the polite peasants; the riff raff; the pretty peasants; the rabble.



Eleni & Max seen holding hands!

Fantastic Feast!

Ana Macura & Tasneem Daud Reporting



On the 14th of March the Medieval Banquet transpired. There was an exquisite aroma that left the theatre as the dishes were handed out to its consumers.

A pleasant event it was, as even the peasants enjoyed it. There were a vast amount of meals that were made in order to serve the gracious Lords, Ladies and Noblemen. There were such wonderful comments discussed between the King and Queen of the food that was devoured during the Banquet. Many of the servants were glad to hear about the dialogue between some of the high monarchy. We have even interviewed the head cook, a peasant named **Martha**, to share the process and attributes that occurred during the long procedure. Here's what she said:

"The banquet was an idea I had in 1994. I was talking to a History teacher who had an idea of making History lessons more entertaining for the students instead of writing things down. We had to ask permission from the Headteacher, who agreed. We would get haystacks every year - fresh from a local farmer - and the rest of the equipment and materials are preserved just for this event."

Chatter: How long does it take to organise the banquet and do the cooking?

"We get the food ready, as you know the year 7s make it, and we start making it 2-3 weeks before the afternoon."

Chatter: Do you think you have learnt a lot?

"Yes, a lot through research."

Chatter: What foods did you love eating and making?

"All the dishes were gorgeous!"

Chatter: Thanks for your time, Martha, it was a real delight.

We can't wait to see the fun next year's Year 7s have!



Martha & some other peasant

The Dane Court Banquet Menu

- * The Boar's Head
- * Pottage
- * Peas & Onions with Snippets
- * Sweet Cheese Flan
- * Honey Toast with Pine Nuts
- * Dates with Spiced Wine
- * Hedgehogs
- * Liver Pasties
- * Beans Fried with Onions
- * Apples & Rice
- * Pears in Wine Syrup
- * Bread & Butter Pudding
- * Apple Wine

Feast Reviews

Report by Ana Macura & Tasneem Daud



More? Really?!

Beyond
description... ~
Edwulf 'Isaac'
Smith

Remarkable!
Loved the
hens ~ Emily
'Sophia-Rose'
Troth

Too much apple wine!!



A grand event
with a beautiful
atmosphere! ~
Maryann 'Ana'
Jolly



Pottage - the infamous peasant fayre



Scoffing peasants

Pottage was mushy so I dumped
it on the person sitting opposite
me! ~ Polly 'Jenny' Pottage

The evening was exquisite,
however, the food tasted
disgraceful - a rating 3! ~
Barbara 'Tasneem' Jones



Service with a smile

Medieval Entertainment

By Peasant Paparazzi Incorporated aka PPI



The merry band of banquet musicians provided the gentry and peasants melodious music throughout the afternoon. Led by Mrs Cooper were; Michael Chesters (7D), Liliana Clark (8H), Ruby Naylor (8B), Lola Walton (8T), Lottie Keefe (10B, centre image), Jonah Knight (10S) and Harrison Miller (10S). Special mention to Mr Fowler (left) who, as ever, charmed us with his dulcet tones. Displaying some of his many talents to the unsuspecting Year 7s, Mr Fowler also unleashed an arsenal of traditional instruments, all of which he played harmoniously. adding to the merrymaking in the school hall.



Clockwise from top left: stocks, apple bobbing, printing, entertained peasant, Master Howard Maggot, skittles, maggot harassing, calligraphy, apple bobbars. Also seen were arm wrestling, Chuckit the Juggler (more on page 13), and The Nun's Priest's Tale aka Chanticleer & the Fox by Chaucer.



Medieval Fashion

Research by fashionista, Lady Sophie Tyler

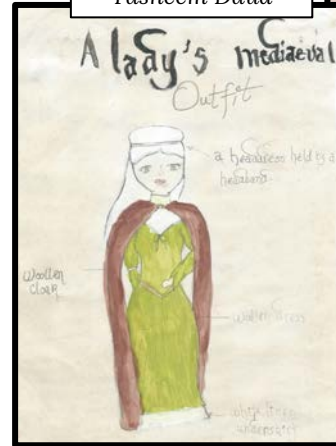
The Rich Women: Clothing of the women consisted of many layers of clothes. They wore underclothes consisting of breeches, chemise and hose. The underclothes in medieval clothing were covered with an underskirt usually made of yellow or white linen or silk. The underskirt was covered with a long, trailing gown, or dress, with wide sleeves. The gowns were made of **velvets, furs, silks, lace, cottons and taffeta**. The hem and the neck of the gown (dress) and sleeves were often decorated with **gems and lace**. The gowns were covered with long over tunics called **bliauds**. These clothes were covered with full length mantel and their shoes were like the mens. their hair long and plaited which was covered by a **Wimple** or a **Guimpe** - a piece of silk or linen draped and pinned over the hair, wrapped around the throat and tucked into the neckline of the gown. Later they wore tall pointy hats, some shaped like **cow horns**.

Cloth Dyes: These were expensive and cloth was dyed using plants, e.g. **bright scarlet**, came from a Mediterranean insect, green dyes came from lichen and blue-based colours came from the Dyer's Woad plant. Our medieval expert, Kai Clarricoats, tried his hand at cloth dyeing. Soak cotton in salted water then dry. **Crush dry plants** and boil in water, cool overnight. Dip fabric in coloured liquid, dry then rinse before wearing. Kai said, 'Onion skin was the best and came out clearly'. **Why don't you try it?**



The Rich Men: wore fur lining and silk of many colours to choose from as well as more than one set of clothes. Men wore trousers, long tunics called bliauds, tabards and surcoats with a full length cloak trimmed with an expensive fur and pinned at the shoulder with a **brooch**. Shoes were made of silk, velvet, cloth or leather and they had **wooden and leather overshoes** to go outdoors. Hats were also a part of their clothing which were similar to a cap and pointed at the front.

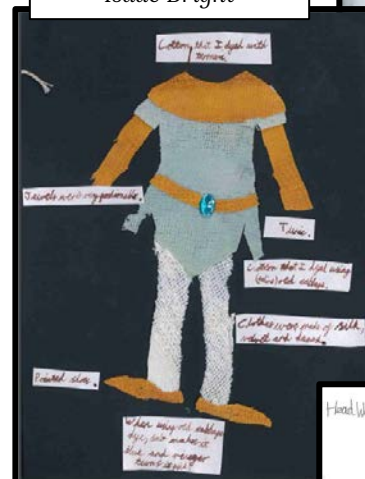
New kid on the design block ~ Tasneem Daud



Lady Sophie, sophisticated in a black velvet gown

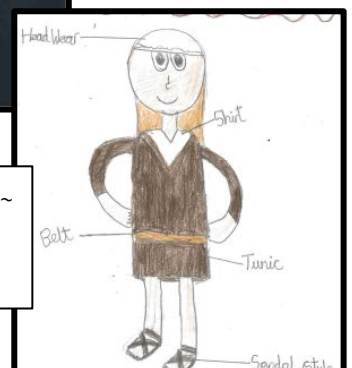
The Poor Peasants: only had one set of grey clothes. They would be most likely quite thin and **very dirty** and consisted of a knee length tunic fastened with a belt. Others wore linen, maybe rough, shirts and often went **bare-legged** or simply bound their legs with strips of linen. Peasant women wore a longer dress made of similar material which was also fastened with a belt.

A one off banquet design by pleaser of the rich & famous ~ Isaac Bright



'Peasant's Outfit' by Ana Macura ~ new on the shabby chic scene

Simple peasant style ~ by Jenny Allan ~ favoured by the tasteless masses



Knight Stuff

By Sophie Tyler, Jaan Richards & Isaac Bright



Striking banquet shields on display whilst the knights made merry!



What do you call a knight who is afraid to fight?
Sir Render!

Shields R Us

~~~~~  
Need a super shiny shield to blind your enemies?  
Tired of bog standard service?  
~~~~~

Come to our premium cleaning service and get all your shield needs catered for.

Find us beside the stocks in your village today!
~~~~~

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Don't be left behind when your mates conquer the Middle East  
Help us destroy these rebels and make Christendom stronger  
\*\*\*

**Raid the Holy land in safety with our bargain armour and weaponry**  
\*\*\*

Your chain mail, full plate of armour weighing 50 lbs, padded undergarments, daggers & swords all available here.  
\*\*\*

Pillage those villages & bring back silks & cottons from the Crusades!!!

DISCLAIMER

Any death or injuries are not our responsibility and it is all your fault!

50% off

Where do knight's go to eat?  
An all-knight diner!!



## A Knight's Tale

In the days of old  
When knights were bold  
And loos were never invented,  
Percy went outside & dug a hole  
And sat there quite contented!

"Good morning, good knight!" said the jester.  
"That was a quick day!" replied the knight.



# Illuminated Lettering

By Jenny Allan, Isabella Barrs, Isaac Bright & Sophie Tyler

## Illuminated lettering



**I**lluminated letters are letters that are decorated. The letters were drawn at the beginning of a page in medieval bibles. Monks would copy the books by hand. They were used to draw attention to pages that they thought were most important.

---

***The term illumination comes from  
illuminate, or to fill with light.***

---



An illuminated letter is always larger than the other letters and it's in colour while the rest of the text stays in black. To make the letter stand out even more it normally includes drawings of animals, plants and other items. Some letters had floral patterns, vines or even pictures of peasants or angels. Gold was used for some areas and the books were very valuable because of this and they were hand written.



It was created by: well, no-one really knows, but the Egyptians were the first we know of to use Illuminated Manuscripts for example the Book of the Dead from 1310 BC.

The Book of Kell shows many examples of illuminated letters. Wouldn't it be great if books still had illuminated letters today?

# Medieval Sport

By Jenny Allan, Ace Sports Reporter



## Juggler Drops A Big One!

Not many people may have noticed it but at the Dane Court Banquet the juggler (Chuckit) dropped one of his juggling batons half way through his performance but recovered very well and carried on so not many people noticed but a few (like me) noticed. Also thankful it wasn't when he was juggling knives over the priest so he didn't hurt anyone.

### **This week's Medieval sport results:**

#### Archery:

Knights 10 - 35 Dragons  
Wolves 42 - 0 Hunters  
Kings 21 - 18 Rebels

#### Jousting:

James 1 - 0 Sam  
Erica 0 - 1 Jane

#### Gameball:

Kent 6 - 4 Mercia  
Wessex 0 - 0 Essex



Famous Jousting  
James



Dragon's Archer  
Tom Point

## Exclusive famous juggler interview!

**Chuckit**, the Court juggler, who performed at the Dane Court banquet was interviewed by us, here's what he said when we asked him some questions:

- How long did you train for?  
**Well I started juggling when I was 9 and trained until I was about 17.**
- Were they real knives you were juggling over the priest?  
**Yes they were real knives.** (He did not specify if they were sharp or not!)
- Do you ever get nervous when you're performing?  
**No, only for really big shows.**
- Was your juggler outfit comfortable?  
**It wasn't really very comfortable and parts got in the way a lot!**



# Create Your Own Feast

Recipe Researchers Isabella Barrs, Tasneem Daud & Ana Macura

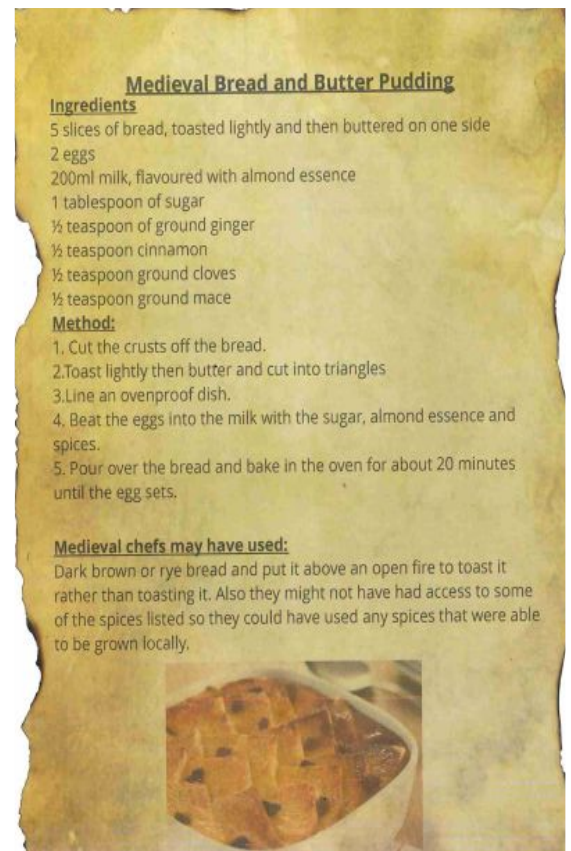
## Torn straight from Banquet Cook Martha's cookery book!



\*  
**Looking for  
something to  
do over the  
holidays?**

\*  
**Try making one  
of our recipes**

\*  
**Send us photos  
of your  
medieval dishes  
& the best ones  
may be featured  
in the next  
DCGS Chatter!**



**Alternatively use this modern day  
version of the same yummy recipe:**

### ~~~~~ **Beans Fried with Onions**

Take beans and seethe them almost til they burst, take and wring out the water clean, do thereto onions sodden and minced and garlick therewith fry them in oil or in grease and do thereto powder douce and serve it forth.

**(The Forme of Cury, 1938)**  
~~~~~

Serves 2
1 onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
4 tbsp oil
¼ tsp ginger
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp nutmeg
6oz (1 cup) kidney beans, cooked

Fry the onions in the oil with the garlic, spices and seasoning. Stir in the cooked beans and mix thoroughly. Reheat and serve.

Monk Monthly

By Isaac Bright with the kind permission of Pope Urban

This month in Monk Monthly...

Monks Habits (catch all the latest news from monk fashion)

Hessian and hemp, thats itchy, uncomfortable material is just forcing you to worship God and if you forget, add lice!

'Oh so holy!' (hear the latest gossip about Pope Urban VI)

Holy, no-ly!

Fine dining and luxurious palaces are the least heinous of his crimes, he is known to have violent outbursts: cursing and attacking people in the Vatican!

"Urbs threw spices at me yesterday," sobbed a kitchen maid after serving the Pope an unsatisfactory meal.



Punishments at the Vatican

Six cardinals were arrested last week for high treason against the Pope. they were plotting against him hoping to form a coup, this rogue behaviour was vanquished, of course, but what happened next was horrendous. The cardinals were first tortured by His Graciousness, Pope Urban, before being executed.

God rest His soul

Ancient Bishop Boni once broke his bonies now Pope Greg has hopped onto the heaven cart.

Urban 1 - Gregory 0

27/3/1378 is the day on which our last French Pope died. He was a pious man and was dedicated to the church, unlike our new Pope who isn't even from the Council of Cardinals, is frivolous and "the spawn of the Devil" as said by an anonymous Cardinal. So bid a fond farewell to Gregory and hope to do so to the roguish Urban, the sooner he is eradicated, the better!

Bald is Holy

The Archbishop of Canterbury reveals his bald-patch-secret...

"Rub a stone onto your head! It will leave you with a perfectly formed bald-patch which should glint in the sun when you go outside."

Head chefs top ten monk-safe foods...

1. Bread
2. Water
3. Wine
4. Barley stew
5. Wine
6. Bread
7. Water
8. Bread
9. Water
10. And of course bread

**Tune in soon for more of
Monk Monthly**

Relieve the Boar~dom

By The Gamesmeister

WIN

Where is the DCGS boar?



Find the one boar hidden on a page in this edition of DCGS Chatter. Then email us at DCGSGChatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk with the page number to be in with a chance to win the star Medieval Banquet prize.

*

Above is what the boar looks like but funnily enough the boar on this page & the two boars on the front page are not included in the competition!

*

The winner will be chosen at random from emails received and will be emailed to notify them of their success.

*

Competition closes at midnight on 4 May 2018

How many maggots in Master Howard Maggot's bucket?

The first answer chosen at random wins a **BUCKET OF WORMS!**



WIN

Email your answer to DCGSGChatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Competition closes at midnight on
4 May 2018

Coming Up...

Next time DCGS Chatter includes....

*

D of E Expedition

How tough can it be?!

*

Historic Sandwich

Year 7s on the trail

*

Little Shop of Horrors

Rehearsal secrets

*

Competition Time

Choose the name the Dane
Court boar!

*

Stay calm & take revision in your stride

Top tips including eating, drinking & studying for success

Ms Alison Sonnex

1963 - 2018

Tragic Loss

It is with deep regret that we write of the tragic death of Ms Alison Sonnex, our Dane Court SENCo and a Modern Foreign Languages Teacher. We at Dane Court are terribly saddened at the loss to our community, however, our thoughts and best wishes are with her family.

In our next edition we hope to have a special feature about Ms Sonnex.

