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**STONOR PARK**  
CHILDREN'S TRAIL

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This Children's Trail belongs to...

.....



Imagine you had to hide  
in an air raid shelter.  
What three items would you bring  
with you to keep yourself entertained?

Draw them here.

During WW2 many country houses were taken over by the government to help with the War Effort. They were used to house schools, refugees, military hospitals, or supplies for soldiers.

Stonor Park was taken over by the petroleum company National Benzole. The supply of fuel was very important in fighting the war. Fuel was needed to run all the tanks, planes, and support vehicles on the front line.

The fuel strategy for the war was planned from Stonor.

German planes bombed a lot of places in the UK during the war. There was an RAF base nearby, and people were scared Stonor might be bombed by accident if the planes targeted the base. An old shelter built to store ice was extended and converted into an air raid shelter to protect the staff who lived and worked at Stonor during the war.

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## Arriving at Stonor Park

Stonor Park is near Henley-on-Thames. The same family have lived in the house for over 850 years!

The name Stonor comes from the stones in the park. They were pushed down the valley at the end of the Ice Age (at least 12,000 years ago). Did you see the circle of stones as you drove into the park?

Prehistoric people believed these stones had mystical powers and arranged them in ritual circles.



Look out later for the large stone at the corner of the Chapel – it comes from the stone circle and symbolises Christianity adapting a pagan religious site. The valley of Stonor has a long history as an important site of worship.



Cecily was not allowed to leave her home for the rest of her life, and was later arrested and died in prison.

John was exiled from England. He tried to return after Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, but was refused and remained in exile. He died in Belgium in 1626.

**Did you know?** Sir Robert Peel's daughter, Elise Peel married Thomas Stonor's son, Francis

Over 250 years later, Sir Robert Peel stopped the persecution of Catholics.

In 1970, Edmund Campion was made a saint along with other Catholics executed during the Reformation. This is referred to as the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs, which is the subject of the painting over the fireplace.

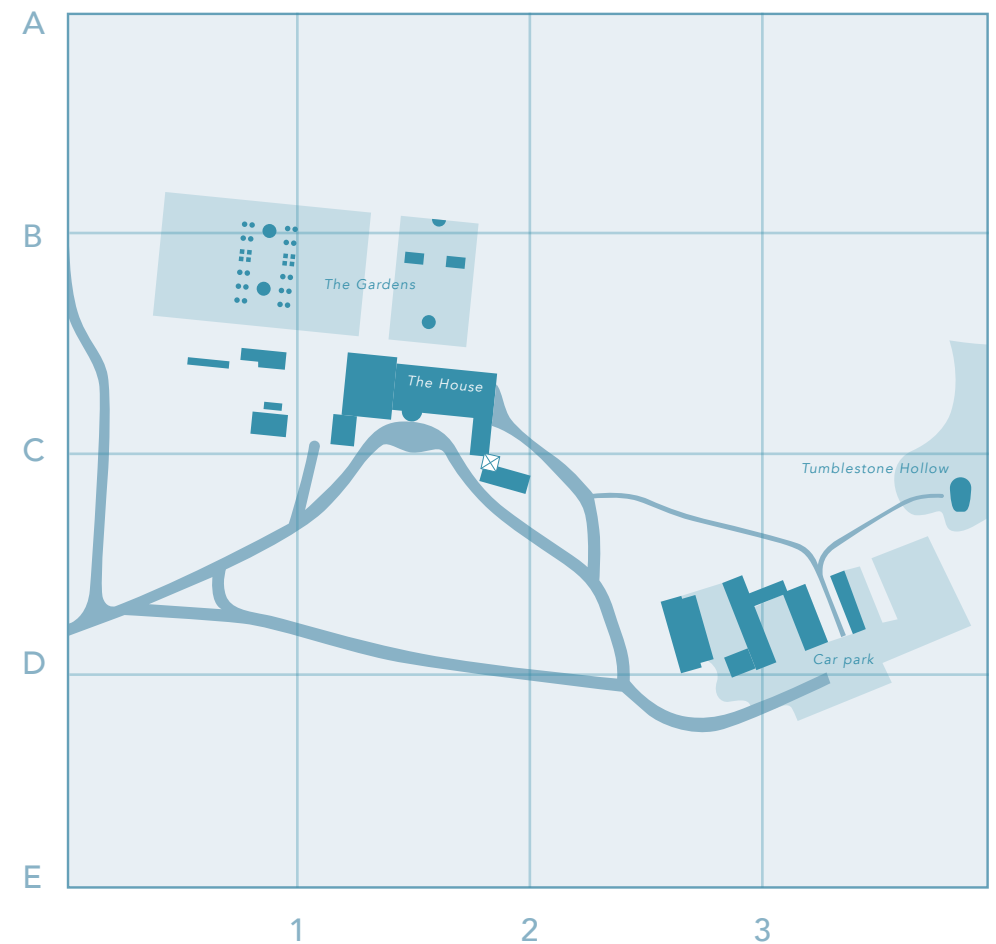


## Hiding Edmund Campion in the roof space

In 1581 Cecily Stonor and her son, John Stonor were found to have hidden somebody called St Edmund Campion. He had printed 400 copies of his book, *Decem Rationes*, 'Ten Reasons for Remaining Catholic' in the attic at Stonor. Cecily died in prison. John was exiled for life.

Queen Elizabeth did not like Catholics. Edmund was betrayed, caught at a house he was staying at nearby, and taken to the Tower of London. He was tortured but did not betray his friends. After months he was hung. Government officials raided Stonor and took away the press and copies of the book.

Only four copies have survived.



Can you mark where the stone circle is on the map?

Did you see any animals as you drove through the park?  
Add them to your map.



# Welcome to Stonor

You are stood in the oldest part of the house, the 13th century Aisled Hall. Like many houses it has grown over time.

Look around you. Can you see any clues in the room that tell you this room is very old? What are they?

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How many pairs of deer antlers are there on the wall?

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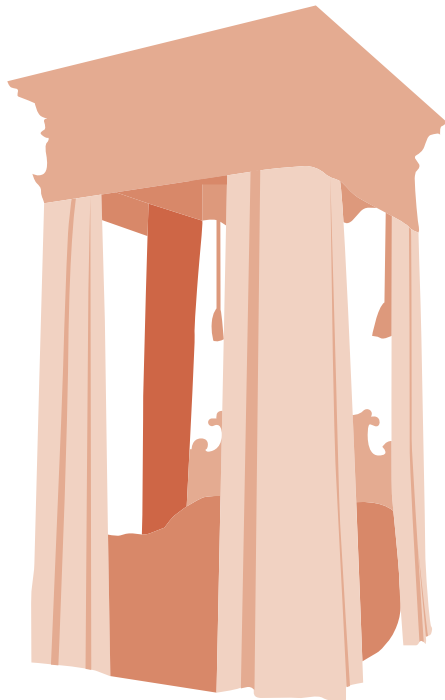
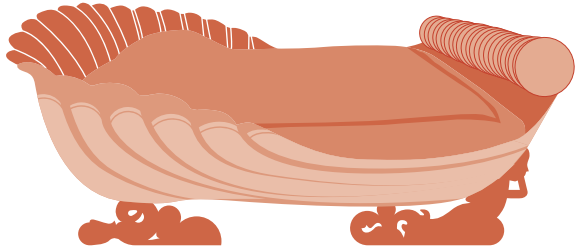
Deer have lived at Stonor since medieval times.

The two beds are of very different designs. Which do you prefer? Design your dream bed here.

Between the bedrooms is the Library. The Library houses a very important collection of Catholic books. They were printed abroad during the Recusancy, when Catholics in England were persecuted.

## The Bedrooms and the Library

Next you go through two bedrooms. One is named after Francis Stonor, who donated the beautiful furnishings you can see, and the other is Lady Camoys's Bedroom.



Did you know?

Thomas probably isn't shown wearing his own suit of armour, but it reflects the most modern designs of the time, to show how important he was.

Can you see the large brass rubbing of a lady and man?

The people are Thomas 1st Baron Camoys and his second wife Elizabeth Mortimer. Thomas was given a Barony after a famous Battle at Agincourt in 1415. Elizabeth was the great-granddaughter of King Edward III. Their descendents married into the Stonor family in the 18th century.

What are Elizabeth and Thomas wearing?

.....  
.....

Take the passage to the Gothic Revival Hall...

## Welcome to the Family

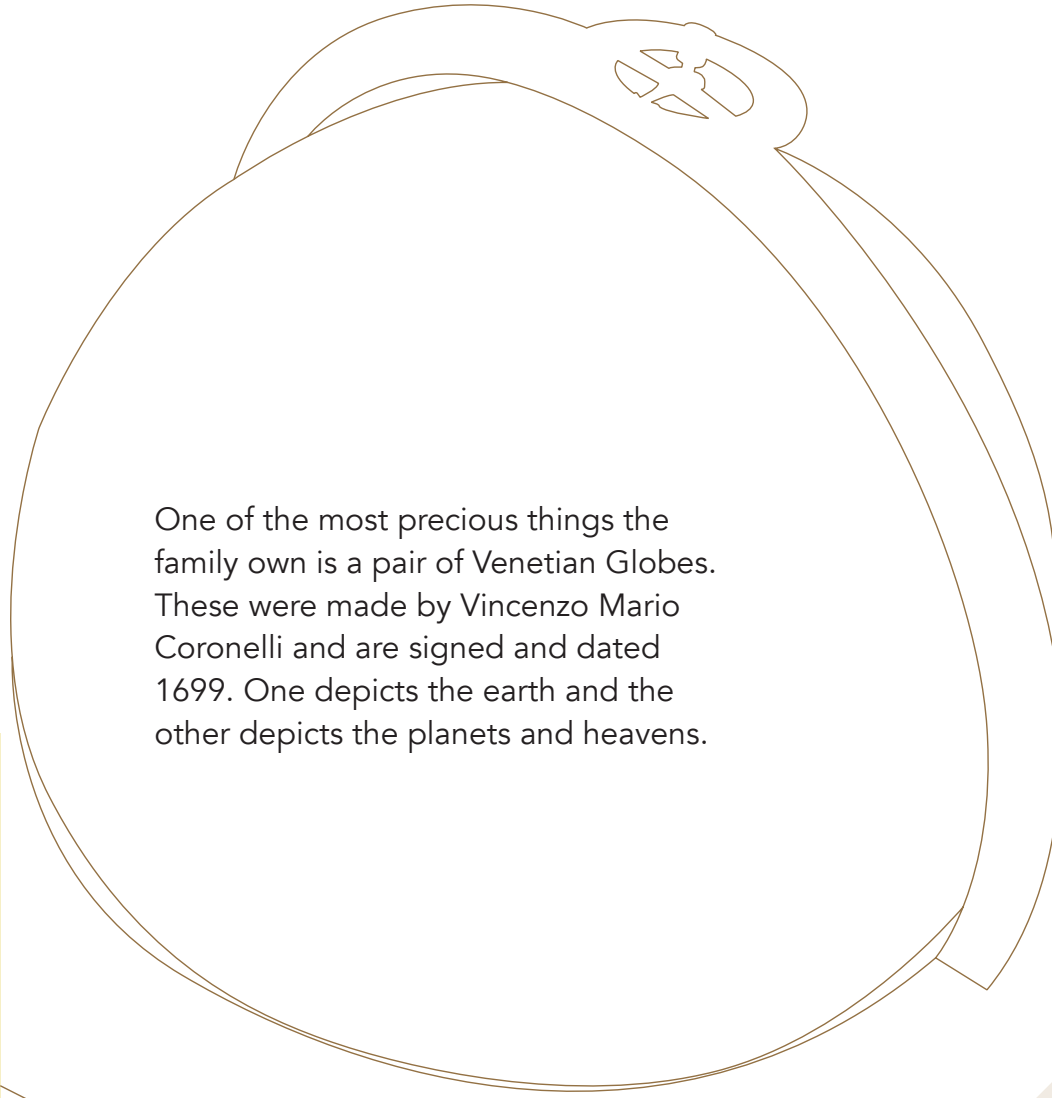
The Gothic Revival Hall does not look as old as the one you have just left, but it was built soon after and is over 700 years old.

Just like us, the family have redecorated to reflect the trends of the day.

Can you see the large picture frame on the wall? It is what we call 'Gothic style' and is how the room got its name.

What else can you find which looks 'Gothic'?

.....  
.....



One of the most precious things the family own is a pair of Venetian Globes. These were made by Vincenzo Mario Coronelli and are signed and dated 1699. One depicts the earth and the other depicts the planets and heavens.

Can you see the pineapples?  
They were a symbol for welcoming or hospitality. Sometimes people put them outside of their houses on the porch.

## The Study

When Henry VIII formed the Church of England, Catholics were excluded from public life.

This period is known as the Reformation. Some Catholics hid and some were persecuted for their religious beliefs. They were also fined.



I spy: Can you see the dogs in this room?

On the wall of the Study is a map showing what the Stonor Estate looked like in 1725. It was much smaller than it had been, as the family had to sell a lot of land to pay the fines.

Crests were used on shields so you could tell who was on your side in battles.

Can you see the Stonor shields hanging on the wall panels and fireplace? They are made when people get married. The right hand side reflects the female and the left hand side the male.

How many crests can you see?

.....

Can you see any other crests in the room? Where are they?

.....



Can you see this one?

It is the newest one and celebrates the marriage of the current owners in 2004.



Can you see this pattern on the Stonor family crest above the fire place? Is it repeated anywhere else? **Why?**

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## Meet the family

Find these 2 portraits of Sir Francis Stonor (1553-1625) and Dame Martha Stonor (née Southcote (1560 to 1630)

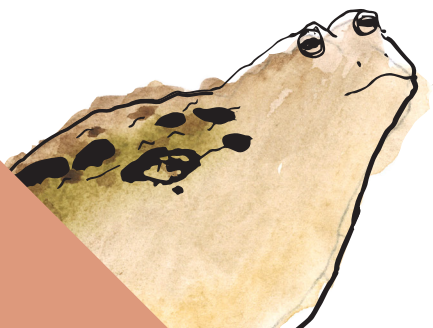


Did you know?

- They were married
- Although Stonors had lived here for 300 years these are the first portraits we have of the Stonor family. We have portraits of most of the family since then.



This is Francis and Martha's crest.  
Can you find it?



I spy:  
What animals can you see in this room?



I-spy:  
What animals can you see in this room?

Can you see the skylark from the family crest which was above the fireplace in the Gothic Hall in this room?



This is a plate from a dinner service with the family's crest



If you walk into the next room you will be in the study

# The Blue Dining Room

This room has also had many uses over the years. It has been a drawing room, bedroom, parlour and study. You are still in the old part of the building.

Joseph Dufour, the artist has lined up the buildings as though they all sit on one bank of the River Seine which goes through the middle of the city.

The wallpaper in this room was printed in 1814, over 200 years ago.

Which city does the wallpaper show?  
(Clue – capital city of France)

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What is missing from the landscape?

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Why don't you think it was included?

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Have you noticed the two large stained glass windows?

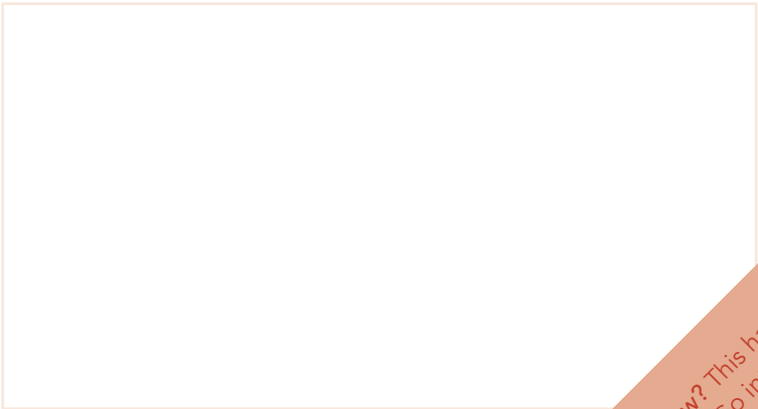
They were made by Francis Eginton using glass recycled from Stonor's Chapel and 16th century German panels from the Wool Hall in Ypres.

Can you name the figures in the windows?

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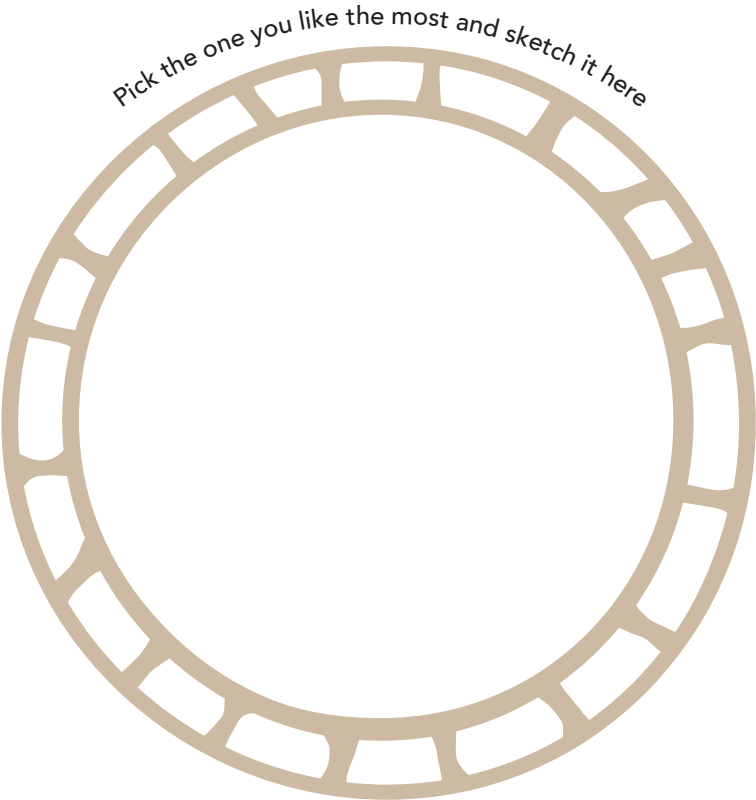
Make a sketch below of your favourite piece so you can use it to help you design your own window back at school:



Did you know? This hall used to be much bigger. Go into the drawing room and see the other half.

This room used to be part of the Gothic Hall. The ceiling is lower because there is now a bedroom above it. It became a drawing room about 100 years ago.

Can you see the stained glass windows in this room?  
The same stained glass maker, Francis Eginton made a boarder around them before fitting them into the frame. They have just been restored.



There are lots of portraits in this room.  
What 3 things do these portraits tell us about the past?

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

Did you see the painting of Stonor?  
This is very important to the family because it shows the house about 350 years ago.

How is the house and park different from today?

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Look for the amphibian on the way to the Blue Dining Room