

STRANGERS' HALL

Stranger in the Home



“Hello. My name is Kat. I live at Strangers’ Hall Museum. Strangers’ Hall has this name because Thomas Sotherton, who used to own the house five hundred years ago, invited people from the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg to come and live in Norwich. These people were escaping from their homes because they were being attacked for being different!

Have you ever felt like a stranger? Perhaps you started a new school when you moved to a new house, or maybe you went on holiday somewhere where life was so different you felt like an outsider? All through history people have sometimes felt like strangers.”

“We are going to find some things by visiting Strangers’ Hall Museum using our computers. Click to go inside the [Great Hall](#) in Strangers’ Hall and use the arrows to look around you.”



Kat’s Top Tip: “You might find it helpful to open the link in a new tab by right clicking the link and selecting ‘Open link in new tab’ from the set of options.”





"I like to hang out under the table while they are all eating in case someone drops a bit of fish. What can I spy with my hungry eye?"

1. Two doors side by side. Can you find them? These doors would have been used by people who worked in the house. One was a buttery (where the drinks were kept) and the other was the pantry, where food was kept.



2. Two angels on high. Can you find them?

The Great Hall is the biggest room in Strangers' Hall and its size and decoration were made to be very impressive to visitors. It still is today, nearly six hundred years later!

"We are now going to go upstairs. Find the lady at the bottom of the wooden stairs holding the sign that invites you to 'Please Start Your Visit Upstairs'. Click on the flashing point at the top of the stairs to take you into the Walnut Room."



"This is my favourite room to curl up in beside the fire. What can I spy with my sleepy eye?"

3. A secret door in the wall! Can you find it?

The walls of this room are made with wooden panelling. This type of panelling was often reused from other houses and cut to fit in to its new room. If you look carefully you can see that the panelling is a bit higgledy-piggledy in places.



We are now going to go to the Georgian Dining Room. To get there, turn so you can see the doorway out of the Walnut Room and click on the flashing point.”



The Georgian Dining Room

“In this room I can watch the birds in the garden from the large windows. What else do I spy with my beady eye?”



4. Three birds! Two on the mirrors and one on the clock. Can you see them?



These birds are eagles and were very popular decorations in the eighteenth century. The eagle is a sign of the god Jupiter (also known as Zeus) who was the king of all the gods.

We are now going to go to the Great Chamber. To get there, turn so you can see the doorway out of the Georgian Dining Room and click on the flashing point.”



“This room is at the very top of the house. It is the warmest room and has lots of comfortable chairs for me to curl up on and lots of small places to look out from. What can I spy with my hidden eye?”

5 Tulips in vases. Can you find them?

Tulips were once very, very expensive. People used to sell the bulbs that the flowers grow from for lots of money. There were also competitions to see who could grow the best one. If you look closely, the front of the chest also has tulips carved onto it.



6 A feather ‘quill’ for writing letters. Can you see it?

Goose feathers were once used as pens. You would have to cut the tip of the feather into the correct shape and dip it into a pot of ink to write your letters with.



“We have now come to the end of our adventure around Strangers’ Hall Museum. Did you manage to spy everything?”

If you want to go back to the beginning, turn so you can see the doorway out of the Great Chamber and click on the flashing point.”