

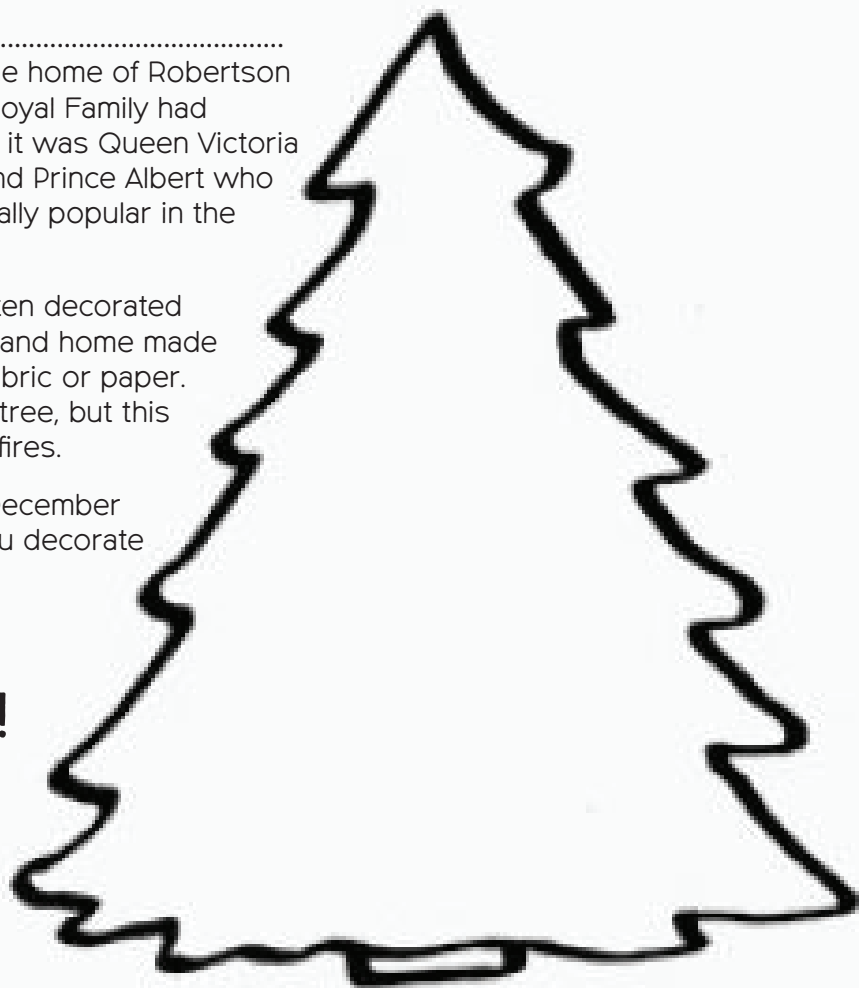
Court Hey Hall at Christmas

Name:

Court Hey Hall was built in 1836 and was the home of Robertson Gladstone's family until 1919. Although the Royal Family had decorated Christmas trees since the 1790s, it was Queen Victoria (who ruled from 1837 - 1901) and her husband Prince Albert who made the tradition of the Christmas tree really popular in the UK.

In Victorian times, Christmas trees were often decorated with dried fruit, pine cones, sprigs of holly, and home made ornaments made from leather, thin metal, fabric or paper. Sometimes candles were used to light the tree, but this could be dangerous as it led to the risk of fires.

Imagine the ballroom of Court Hey Hall in December with a huge Christmas tree. How would you decorate it? Colour in the picture to show us.



Plant your own Christmas tree!

You will need:

- A biodegradable pot
- A coir disc
- A Christmas tree seed
- A ziploc bag
- Some Vermiculite

1. Soak the coir disc by putting it into some water. Wait until it swells up to be about 3cm tall.
2. While you're waiting, decorate the sticker and stick onto your bag, so you know whose Christmas tree is whose! You could also colour in the Christmas tree picture above if you've not done it yet.
3. Put one seed into the hole on the top of the compost
4. Cover the top with a little bit of Vermiculite, then put the pot carefully in the bag and seal the top. Make sure it stays the right way up when you carry it home!
5. The seed needs to be kept cold to make it germinate, so you can either leave the pot outside in a sheltered place, or put it in the bag in your fridge for 6 weeks.
6. Check the compost every week to make sure it doesn't dry out! It might take as long as one or two months before anything happens!
7. After 6 weeks, move the pot to a windowsill and try to keep it at a temperature of 15-20C if possible.
8. When you see a seedling start to grow, open the top of the bag to let air in.
9. When the seedling is big enough to handle, you will need to put it into a bigger pot. Put in some soil at the bottom, leaving enough room to fit the whole cardboard pot in, and then fill up the spaces around the edges. If you don't have a pot, you can use an old yoghurt pot or something similar, but make sure it has some drainage holes in the bottom.
10. Once there is no risk of frost, you can move your seedlings outside. Take them outside in the morning and bring inside in the evening for a week so they get used to the different temperature, before leaving them outdoors all the time.