

The Binham Weaver's Tale – Discovery Sheet



In medieval times Norfolk was famous for its wool. Binham priory kept large flocks of sheep on its land, and sold their wool to raise money. In the countryside the spinning and weaving of wool into cloth would have kept whole families employed in their own homes. The children would sort and prepare the wool, and their parents would spin it into thread and weave it. The finished cloth would be sold at local markets, to be made into clothes. Binham once had its own market every Wednesday and was a busy trading centre.

Things to do and look for in the church

1. Look for the brass picture of our lady weaver and make a rubbing of her.
2. Can you find the little carved wooden lamb on a bench end, and draw it?



3. The weaver made a fine woollen blanket to wrap her baby in. Can you find the carving of her baby on a bench end?
4. What kind of animal can you see near the baby on the bench?
5. All the monks in the priory wore a long woollen garment with a hood called a 'habit'. Can you find the brass picture of a monk wearing one?
6. Next to the brass picture of the monk is a picture of the parish priest, he has finely embroidered patterns on his clothes. Can you find something in the church that has been embroidered?
7. Design your own embroidery picture or pattern based on something you have seen in the church.

Binham Priory, Access & Conservation Project

