

Talking of Tudors - Life & Living

Tudor Medicine

The Tudors were not the most hygienic people, open sewers ran through the streets, carrying diseases. Dirty water was thrown from high windows onto the streets.

A popular general cure for illness was bloodletting - losing blood either by letting a barber cut you with his razor or letting a doctor cover you with blood-sucking creatures called leeches.

People would treat asthma by swallowing young frogs or live spiders, covered in butter.

If you were feeling sick, one remedy was to drink cream mixed with blood from the tail of a black cat!



Tudor Houses

Tudor Houses had some distinctive features. They had vertical and diagonal blackened timbers, thatched roofs and overhanging first floors known as galleries. Some of the lower stories of houses were made from stone. Many examples of Tudor houses still survive in good condition today.



Tudor Schools

Most families educated the boys for work and the girls for marriage and running a household.

Petty schools educated children from 5 until 7 years old, run by a well educated housewife, the children would learn to read and write in English and the catechism (an important book detailing the Christian faith), they would also learn lessons in behaviour.

Grammar schools became more popular with the increase of trade, some would teach girls, who learnt music, writing and reading. The boys learned Greek, Religion and Latin, which they had to practice by speaking all the time, anyone caught speaking English at school was punished.

Tudor teachers were very strict about punishment and bad behaviour meant being beaten with a birch cane!!