

Take tea in a *Tudor setting*

One can't help feeling that if Layer Marney Tower's toffee apple cake had been on the menu when Henry VIII visited in 1522, there might have been far fewer grumpy beheadings during his reign.

This delicious bake, together with other cakes such as chocolate and Malteser, Victoria sandwich, brownies and flapjacks are all available in the tea rooms situated in the converted stable block – complete with stalls and mangers. Savoury dishes include ploughmans', quiche and toasted paninis.

Children – who are fascinated by Tudor history made real at the tower – are catered for with a Lunch Box containing a sandwich, apple, biscuit and a drink.

There is much to see at the tallest Tudor Gatehouse in the country. Built to reflect the magnificence of its owner, Henry, 1st Lord Marney, the tower features lavish use of terracotta and stucco together with soft red brick to create a stunning façade overlooking the formal and informal gardens and views to the Blackwater estuary in the distance.

Owned and lived in by the Charrington family since 1959, the tower has events throughout the year. During July and August there are Tudor Music days with a variety of performers both in and outside the building, Tower Tours on Sunday afternoons, and Summer Fun activities for children, including a Summer



Sleepover. The tea rooms open onto a large enclosed courtyard created by high walls of mellow red with black brick patterning. There is outdoor seating available, where you might be kept company by the Tower cat whilst you enjoy your tea.

The Charrington family runs a second tea room in yet another gem of an Essex building – Tymperleys Tearoom is in a beautiful Tudor merchant's house set within a walled garden: an oasis of calm in the centre of

Colchester and well worth a visit.

The Tower tea rooms are open from midday-

5pm in July and August. There is an admission charge to visit the property. For full information on what's on, visit the Layer Marney Tower website:

www.layermarneytower.co.uk

Layer Marney Tower, Layer Marney, Essex CO5 9US
Tel: 01206 330 784
info@layermarneytower.co.uk
Parking. Disabled access, although the tower is not accessible.