

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

You will find HumanKind's *SIX NEW STORIES* in the Family Apartments, accessed via the West Door of the house. You can explore HumanKind with a valid membership card or a garden ticket, which is available from the Ticket Office. There may be timed entry to HumanKind, but volunteers are on hand at the West Door to arrange this for you – pop by to see them early to avoid disappointment. Search the house and the new Calke Guidebook and you will also find traces of HumanKind.

Further afield, take some time to explore three large HumanKind landscape rooms, take a pledge at our HumanKind pledge wall, and enjoy a number of small additions to the parkland and gardens including our colourful reading benches. Events related to HumanKind will be taking place throughout the year.

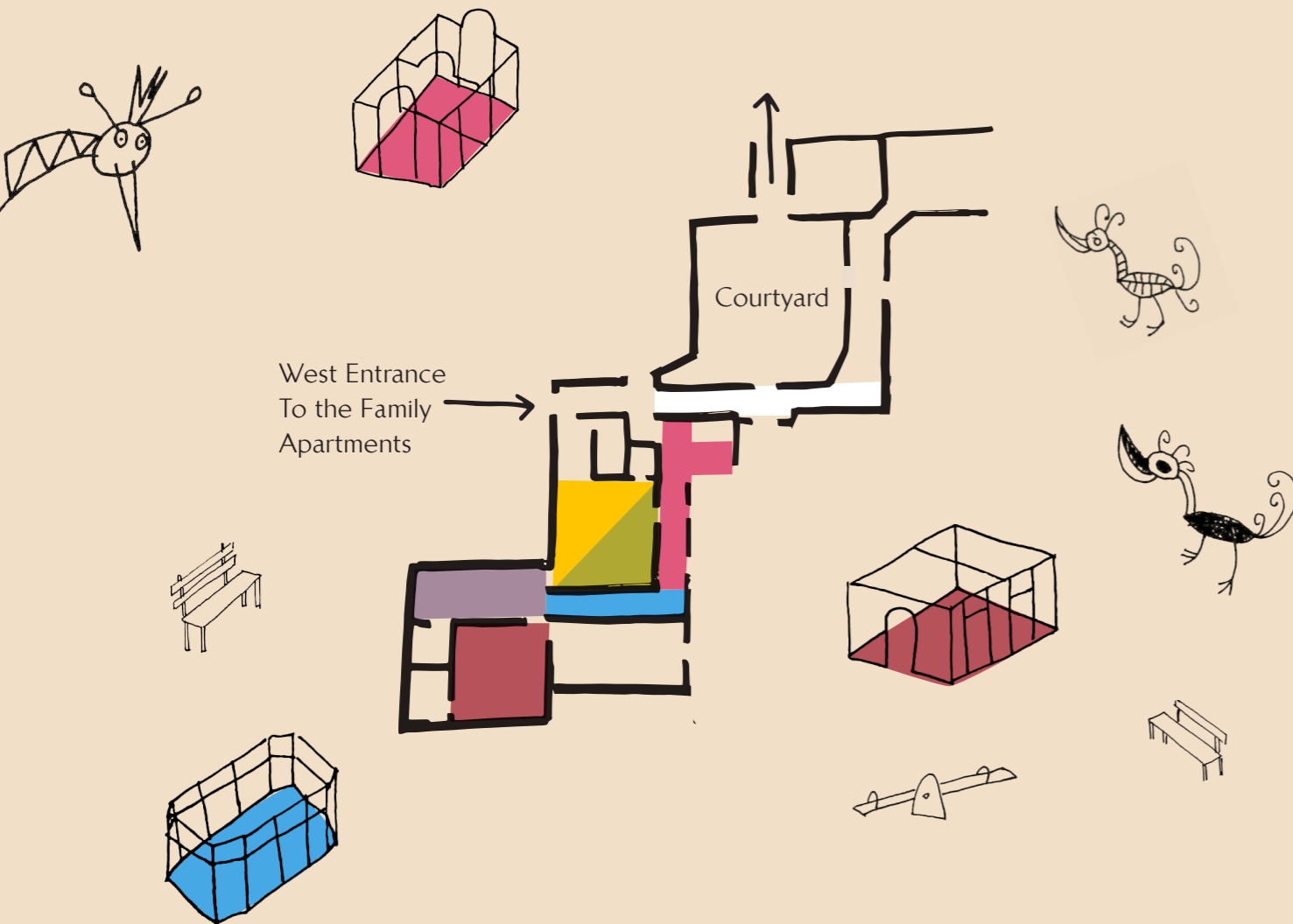
For more information please visit the Calke Abbey website. If you would like this information in an alternative format, please call us on 01332 863822 or email calkeabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk



National
Trust

HUMANKIND

Loneliness and isolation
kindness and compassion
past and present



HumanKind is a research-led collaboration between the National Trust and the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries at the University of Leicester.



With kind
support from



For more than 30 years, the story of Calke Abbey has been built around tales of a reclusive family who guarded the estate from modern life and led eccentric and disconnected lives. However, new research has fundamentally changed our understanding of Calke and the people who lived and worked here.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Henry Harpur, often referred to as the 'Isolated Baronet', and as awareness grows of the scale and harmful impact of loneliness and social isolation today, HumanKind tells six new stories of loneliness, isolation, kindness and

compassion. Spanning more than 200 years, these are stories that many of us can relate to today. The people who lived at Calke needed one another and took care of one another. Their routes out of difficulty were always aided by others – by humankind and human kindness.

HumanKind challenges the stigma that surrounds loneliness and social isolation and raises questions about this pressing social issue. It encourages all of us to nurture more meaningful human connections, and, in true Calke tradition, encourages small acts of kindness.

MY DEAR MAMMA



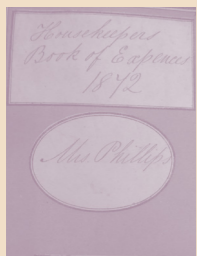
Georgiana, Lady Crewe (1824–1910) is often described as isolated based on a single diary entry which captured a moment of despair in her life.

In fact the family archives reveal the deep and loving relationships between Georgiana and her children. Georgiana sought out connections to others and followed her passions, including collecting plants and building a garden at Calke.

Her son Vauncey (1846–1924) wrote beautiful letters to his 'mamma' and planted crocuses for her as a gift. Often characterised as eccentric, records show that, like all of us, Vauncey needed and cared for others. He followed in his mother's footsteps in his love of the natural world and, later, in his deep love for his children.

Vauncey lost his son Richard to cancer in 1921. It is difficult to imagine his heartbreak. He wrote weekly to his daughter Winifred when she was away from home and, when Winifred was widowed, Vauncey brought her home to Calke to care for her.

THE SECRET



We know little about Harriet Phillips, Housekeeper at Calke in the 1860s and 70s. Born in Leicester in 1823, by age 20, Harriet was working as a servant. Evidence from this time suggests that she was unable to read and

write. In 1844 Harriet had a son, Samuel. As she was unmarried, Samuel was considered illegitimate, a social stigma which would shape both their lives.

By 1851 Harriet was working as a cook in a household in Surrey and six year old Samuel was living five miles away with two women – a laundress and her daughter. It is likely that they were paid by Harriet to look after Samuel.

Harriet became Housekeeper at Calke in 1865. She had learned to read and write. Although Samuel was now 21 it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for Harriet to talk about her son as an unmarried woman. As Housekeeper, Harriet was responsible for the moral conduct of the female servants and any sense of scandal could have endangered her position. Harriet became a grandmother in 1872, a happy secret she could only have shared with those closest to her.

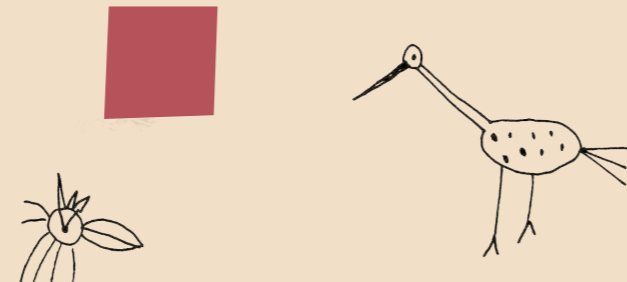
By 1891, aged 88, Harriet was finally living with Samuel.

H HARPUR IS A FOOL



2019 marks 200 years since the death of Henry Harpur (1763–1819) who came to be known as the 'Isolated Baronet'. Henry was gossiped about by his contemporaries for his shyness and was described as suffering a 'disease of the mind' by diarist Joseph Farington. Farington never met Henry. More recent historians have woven these fragments into elaborate stories of a family who, down the generations from Henry, shunned social contact and treated one another with a lack of care. The real stories of Henry's life have been overshadowed by the myth and stigma built up around him.

Henry Harpur is distant from us. We know that he was an ordinary 13 year old, doodling strange beasts and writing 'H. Harpur is a fool' in his books. The books he bought and the journals he subscribed to as an adult tell us that he had a curious mind and was influenced by the Age of Enlightenment. He built the library, remodelled the house, commissioned music, collected political caricatures, and used experimental techniques to make cheese! He had a sense of humour and he liked fine things. He married for love.



BABY



Winifred Harpur Crewe (1879–1953) was an inspiring, connected, spirited and passionate woman. Fiercely independent and an intrepid adventurer, as a young woman Winifred lived an exciting life travelling around the world.

Great friends with women directly involved in the suffrage movement, Winifred, or 'Pid' as she was known to her family, was open-minded and courageous.

Winifred married her great love Albert Morton Senior – Bertie – in 1914. Bertie was an officer in the Indian Army. On her first wedding anniversary, she wrote to her family from Burma to tell them that she was 'gloriously happy'. Bertie had given her a brooch with 'Baby' written on it.

Bertie was killed by friendly fire on his first day of active service in 1916. Lost and grieving, Winifred returned to Calke to heal.



BUT FOR HER KINDNESS



Possibly because he was the oldest son, George Crewe (1795–1844) was sent away from Calke as a child. During school holidays he lived with his 'foster-parent', Lady Skipwith of Newbold Hall.

We know from George's letters that although he was well looked after, his absence from Calke caused him a great deal of anxiety. At one particularly low point in his life, George contemplated suicide.

As a young man, George fell in love with Jane, his future wife, and found the care and support he needed in her family. When his father, Henry Harpur, died in 1819, George returned to Calke to run the estate.

Throughout his life, and perhaps because of his experiences – not least the kindness he received from Lady Skipwith - George was a conscientious and empathetic man who sought to support others. He placed great importance on his faith. George is often described as the starting point for a tradition of kindness at Calke.

I LIKE MEN WHO SMOKE A PIPE



Airmyne Jenney (1919–1999) was the daughter of Frances Harpur Crewe. As a child, Airmyne visited her grandparents – Sir Vauncey and Lady Isobel – at Calke with her brothers, Charles and Henry. She moved to Calke in 1949.

Passionate about horses and all animals, Airmyne was full of life. In the 1940s, she worked at the Army Remount Centre at Melton Mowbray. Following an accident when she was kicked by a horse, the lives of Airmyne and her family changed dramatically as she found herself unable to speak.

Over many years and with the support of her family, particularly her devoted brother Henry who she described phonetically in her speech therapy book as 'Hen-ry the lis-ner', Airmyne learned to talk again.

Airmyne had a sense of humour. During her convalescence she would fill Calke with the sounds of Doris Day singing 'Que Sera Sera (Whatever will be will be)'. Asked to write 7 sentences to focus her therapy, Airmyne wrote 'I like men who smoke a pipe'.

Airmyne is remembered as a generous gift giver and friends believe she nurtured this kindness to combat the cruelty of those who dismissed her following her accident. Later in life a close friend would grow tulips for her in her garden. Airmyne would cut them down and give them away.

