



Find out more about the Coram Story.

What next, in this history that continues?
And what might your part in the story of care be?

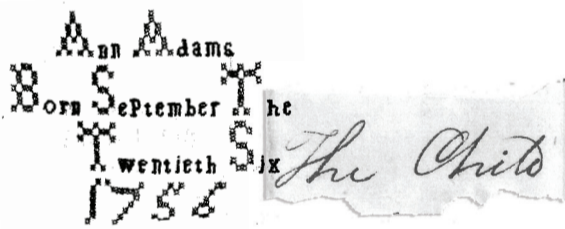
An opportunity to explore what the world has in store.
A way to be heard.
A need to feel seen.

In the past, present and future.
So many joys, just the same.
So many hopes are the same.
Yet.



Every single life, unique.
Imagining, wishing.
Children and young people are dreaming.
Beyond care in this present moment.
Beyond this place. Beyond being a looked after child.

beyond...



right here...

The Foundling Hospital now known as Coram was established in 1739 to support babies whose mother's circumstances left them unable to care for them. The modern care system started in this place as a result of the pioneering vision of Thomas Coram. The lives of generations of children are recorded in Coram's Foundling Hospital Archive. Meticulous records ensured that the journey of every child was captured - their care, their education, their apprenticeships. New names were given to those who needed a new beginning. The shelves of these records are longer than two football pitches and contain thousands of petitions left by desperate mothers seeking a place for their child. Fabric tokens of cloth and ribbon- one half left at the Hospital, one half taken away by mothers, in case they were able to return to reclaim their child - form one of the largest collections of textiles from this era in the world. And now 100,000 records - 23% of the archive - have been digitised for others to discover. Care-experienced young people today have explored this history, and created their own echoes through time to help drive positive change for the future.

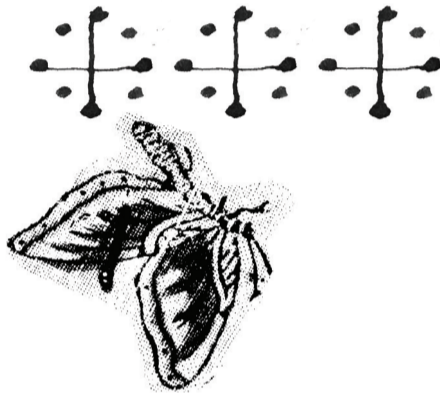
Whose stories emerge when we take a closer look at this?
And what might encountering this history mean for your connection to care today?

When you read between the lines, or look beyond a label, what connection can you find?
And what makes you feel cared for?

Beneath thousands of bureaucratic records sits a constellation of relationships.
In between the spaces of a system, connections are forged that leave a lasting impression.
Affection, respect and joy flourish even when the system isn't designed for it.
A wet nurse. A teacher. A fellow child.
A sibling. A stranger. A pet.
Your people. A found family. People that show up.

together...

Be the rose that grows through the concrete



This experience brings together voices and words from across time.

From the records within Coram's Foundling Hospital Archive, we encounter the voices of mothers who sought admission for their children to give them a better chance in life.

We learn of the details of the care of the children, their experiences in the care of the Hospital and later, when they were apprentices.

This installation is the culmination of the Voices Through Time: The Story of Care programme which celebrates the launch of Coram's digital Foundling Hospital Archive. You are invited to see the potential of these records and what they can tell us about care in the past and in the future.

A group of care-experienced young people joined The Liminal Space to use art and design to explore the archive and reflect on what care feels like and means today.

Here, their voices, imagery and ideas are woven with archival materials that express the lives of the tens of thousands of Foundling children, their carers and their mothers.

Visit coramstory.org.uk to explore further and to access the digital archive.

Acknowledgements

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Exhibition conceived, created, designed by The Liminal Space.

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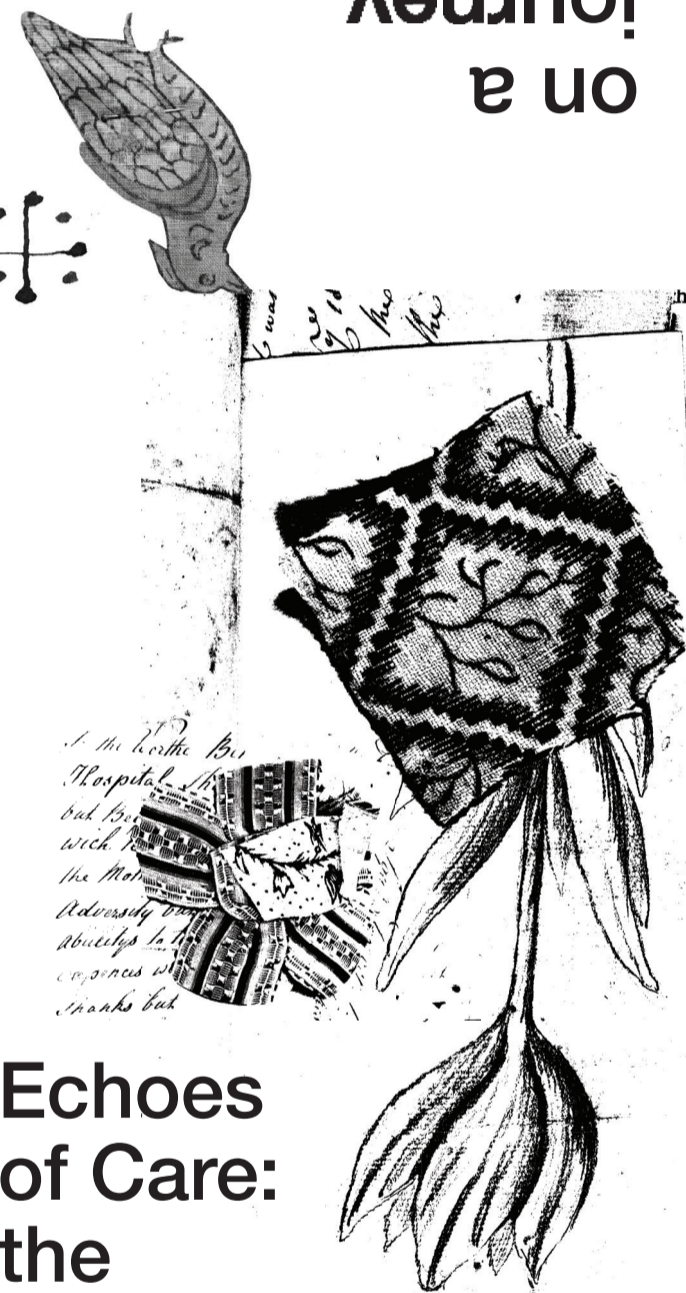


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When basic needs are met, what do children need next?
Where do you find affection, understanding, autonomy in your life?

Entering any care system can begin with a moment of fracture or disruption.
But, it can also be route out of uncertainty. Institutions and authorities can provide stability, security, and sustenance.
The Foundling Hospital was a place of safety compared to the harsh world outside, it gave mothers and children the chance of a fresh start.
A new place, new people, even a new name.

on a journey...



Echoes of Care: the

living history

of Coram and the Foundling Hospital



17th October 2024 - 25th March 2025



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Fragile records have been digitised –

FOUNDLING

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more
people can
discover the
lives of these
children

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/ Cap
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