

# Unruly Rulers

## Who were the medieval (say 'med-ee-evil') kings?

**Medieval** means in the Middle Ages. This is roughly from when William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 until Henry VIII (that's the 8<sup>th</sup>) became king in 1509.



### King William II Rufus

He was killed hunting.  
People say that Henry I ordered it!



### King Stephen

Another king who stole the throne, it was meant to be his cousin Matilda's!



### King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



### King Henry III

He was a good king who gave money to the poor and liked to pray.



### King Edward II

Another bad King, he only listened to his best friend Piers Gaveston and died a nasty death in a dungeon.



### King Henry V

He wanted to be King of England and France. You guessed it, he started a war!

1066

### William the Conqueror

He wasn't even English, he came from France.



1087

### King Henry I

He stole the throne from his older brother who was away on Crusade.



1100

1135

### King Henry II

Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.

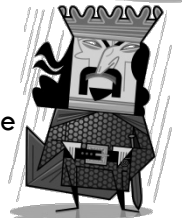


1154

1189

### King John

Bad King John, he was a cruel and horrible man. He died eating too many peaches!



1199

1216

### King Edward I

He invaded and conquered both Wales and Scotland - ruling both of them!



1272

1307

### King Edward III

He was a good king, even if he did start the 100 years' war.



1327

1377

### King Henry IV

He stole the throne from Richard while he was fighting in Ireland. Hard luck Richie!



1399

1413



### King Edward IV

He secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Some say she was a witch!

1422

### King Henry VI

He became king at 8 months old! He was weak and hated war. He never fought in any battles.



1461

### King Edward V

He was 10 when he became king for 86 days. Then his uncle Richard put him and his brother in the Tower.



1483

### King Richard III

He was a bad king. People say he had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London so he could be king instead.

1483



## Meet King Edward III

– who ruled when the Calverley family first lived here



**Hi Eddie!**

**So, when did you become king?**

I became King on 25 January 1327 when I was 14 years old.

**What are you most famous for?**

I started the 100 years' war with France (which actually lasted longer than 100 years!) I'm the reason England became a great military power.

**Was there anything you were scared of?**

The plague – fleas on rats brought the Black Death to England during my reign.

**What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?**

I tried to steal the French throne from Philip V of France. I am a much better king and warrior than Philip; he doesn't deserve to rule France!



## Find out about Calverley Old Hall

Calverley Old Hall was first built over 700 years ago, and was owned by the Calverley family.

The original house was much smaller than the current building and was built around 1320. This early building was 'L' shaped, and had a kitchen and servants' area downstairs, whilst the family lived upstairs in their private rooms.

If you look at Calverley Old Hall today, you will see that we are right in the middle of lots of other houses. But it would have looked very different for the Calverley family.

They were one of the richest families in the area and owned a lot of land, so Calverley Old Hall would have been surrounded by fields and farmland.

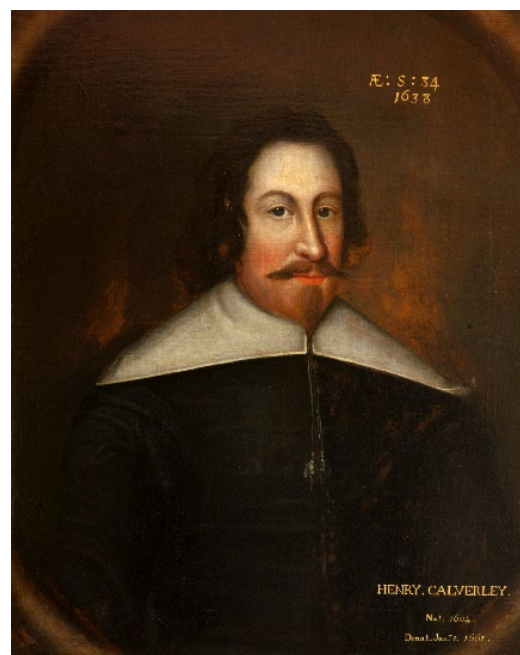


**Fact:** Most of the men in the Calverley family were called either William or Walter, so it gets quite confusing looking at the history books!

**Fact:** The oldest part of the building is the middle section, called the '**solar**'. '**Solar**' means something related to the sun. This room is called the solar because it is in the middle of the house and was supposed to be the brightest room in the building.

But it also has another possible meaning. In Latin, an old language used hundreds of years ago, '**Solus**' means '**alone**'. The solar was the family's private room, where they spent time alone.

Do you have a similar room at your house?



Unfortunately, we don't have many pictures of the Calverley family to show us what they might have looked like. This painting shows Henry Calverley, who lived here in the 1600s.



## The Chapel

About 150 years after it was built, the family added a much bigger Great Hall, and their own private chapel to pray.

**Fact:** The Calverley family were **Catholics**, a Christian religion that was outlawed by Tudor King Henry VIII, who wanted everyone to become a **Protestant**. Over the years the family got into lots of trouble for this, and had to pay some of their money to the King as punishment. One of the family was even locked in the Tower of London until he apologised!



## The Painted Chamber

Over the years, generations of Calverley's lived at Calverley Old Hall and continued to add to the building. Although the building we see today has changed quite a lot, we can see what it might have been like in Tudor times by visiting one room particularly, now known as 'The Painted chamber'.



The painted chamber was added by Sir William Calverley and was a way of showing off the Calverley family's wealth and education.

It was found underneath modern decoration in 2021 and has survived for almost 500 years!

Can you see the details in the design? There are roses, shields, creatures and if you look closely, some faces. What else can you see?



## What does Calverley Old Hall look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that you think describe it best.

Does Calverley Old Hall look similar to the buildings around it?

Impressive

Tall

Pretty

Grand

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Uneven

Elegant

Cosy

Historic



Calverley Old Hall was once a great manor house, surrounded by fields and farmland which were also owned by the Calverley family.

The house wasn't all built at once, but each generation of the family added to it over time. The solar, which is now the living room, is the oldest section of the building, and was originally built as the family home around 1320. The Calverley family added to the house as they became more wealthy, adding a Great Hall to entertain guests and even having their own private chapel.

Although you wouldn't know it now, the house wasn't always built out of stone. In fact, the original hall built in 1320 was a 'timber framed' house, built from wood with walls made of 'wattle and daub', a kind of straw and dung mix. Smelly!

### Fact:

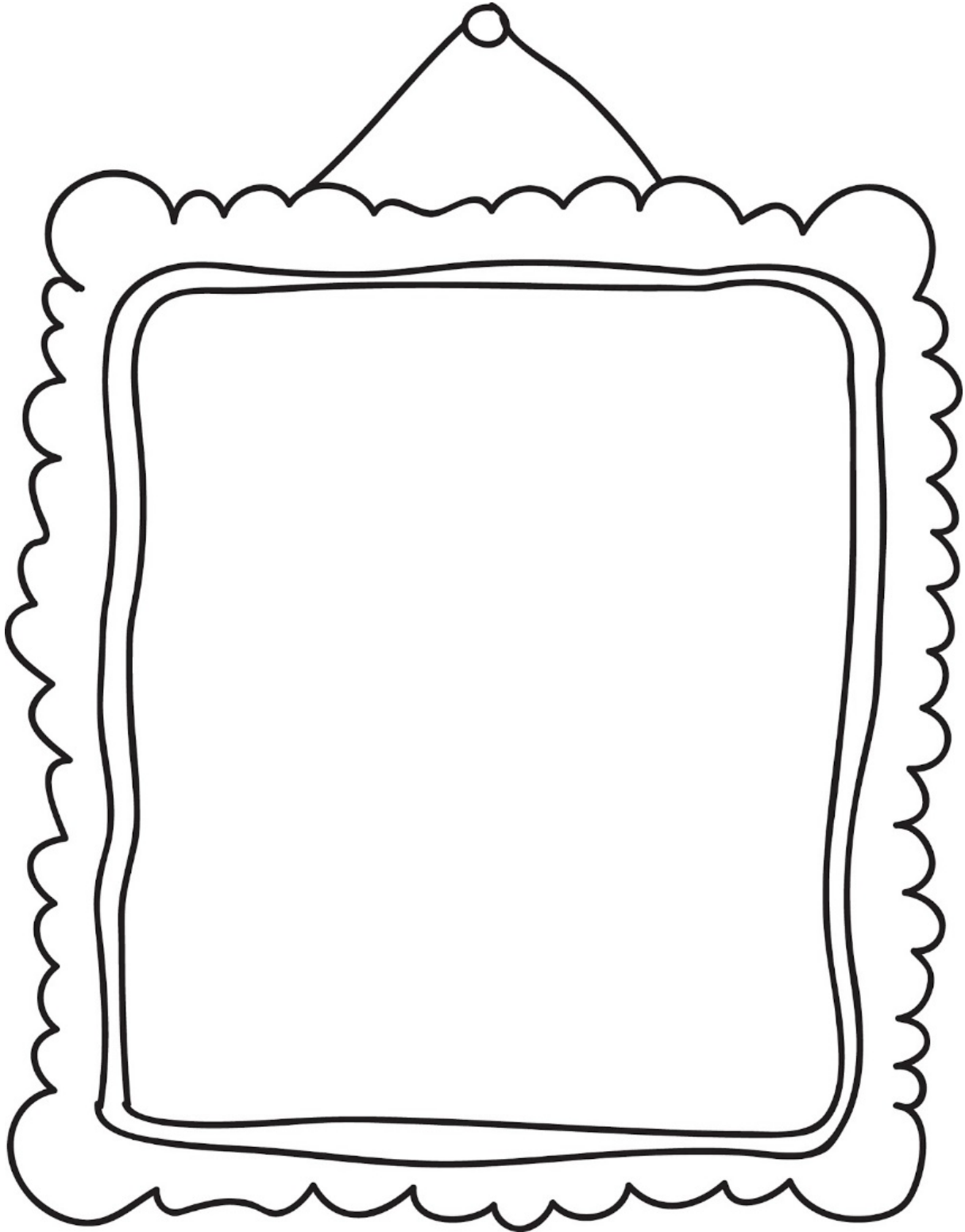
The Great Hall, which is now the kitchen, has a **Hammerbeam roof**.

There are lots of big decorative beams or **braces** which support the weight of the roof. If you look closely, you will see wooden pegs sticking out of the beams. These do the same job as modern metal nails. If the wooden pegs become loose, you can hammer them in a little bit further to tighten things up again, instead of needing to add more nails. Clever!



Buildings can be quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

**Take an adult with you and have a go at drawing the front of Calverley Old Hall.**



## Painted chamber activity

On the first floor you'll find a room with decorative wall paintings which are almost 500 years old. They are very important and very rare. The designs are hand painted onto plaster and wood, in a repeat pattern, a bit like modern wallpaper.

Can you spot the Tudor Roses at the top?

Design your own patterns inspired by the paintings on the walls between the beams below.  
*Remember, no pens are allowed in the painted room to protect the paintings, so do your drawing somewhere else in the building!*



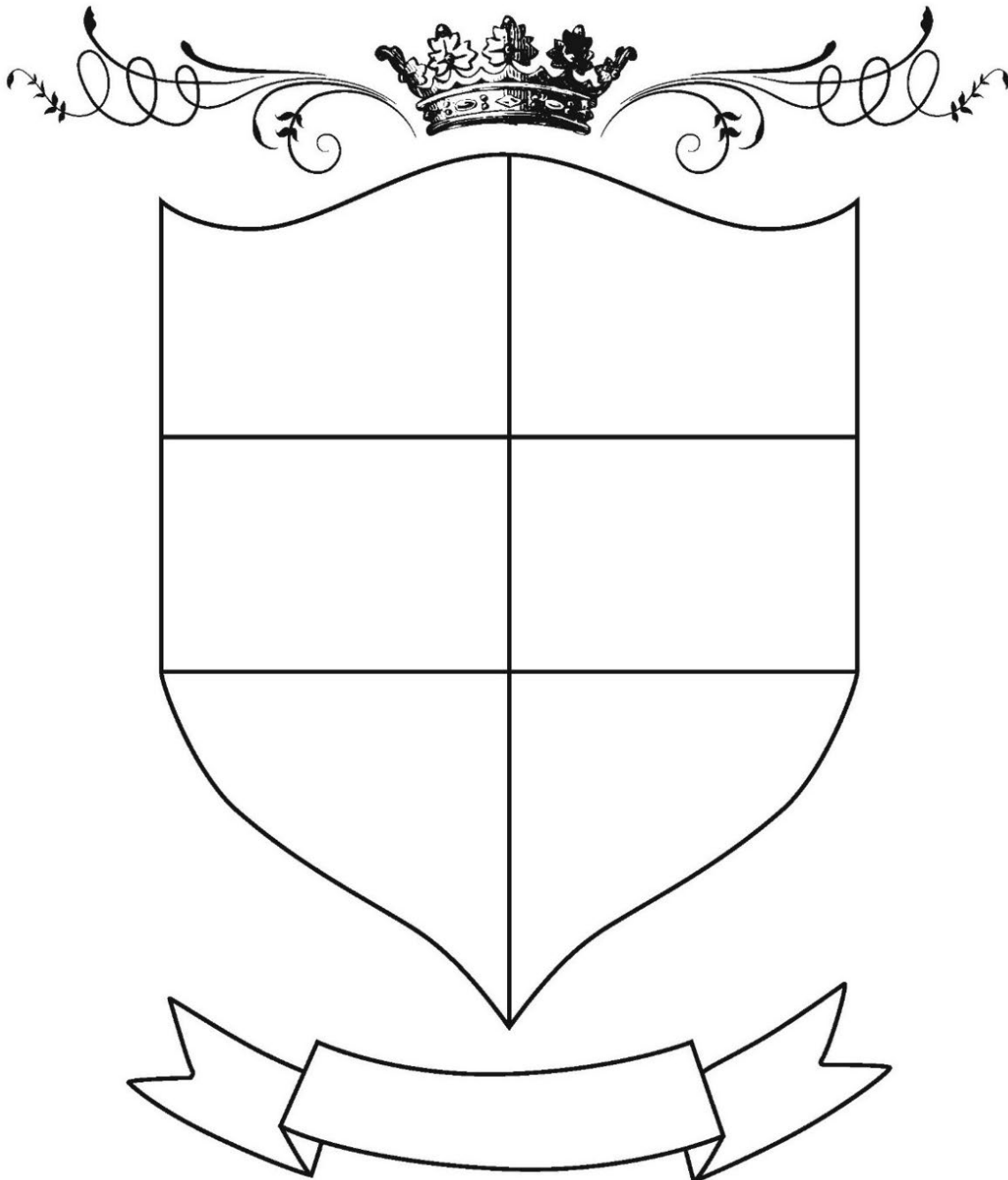


## Design your own coat of arms

Like many rich families, the Calverley family had their own coat of arms. Each element of the design represents a particular quality or historic link.

The Calverley family's coat of arms includes a horned owl. Owls can represent wisdom and industry. The wider Leeds area was a very industrial area, and is famous for its role in cloth manufacturing. Owls also appear on the official crest of the City of Leeds.

Have a go at designing your own family crest. What is important to you? Is there something that represents the area you live in? Or your family?

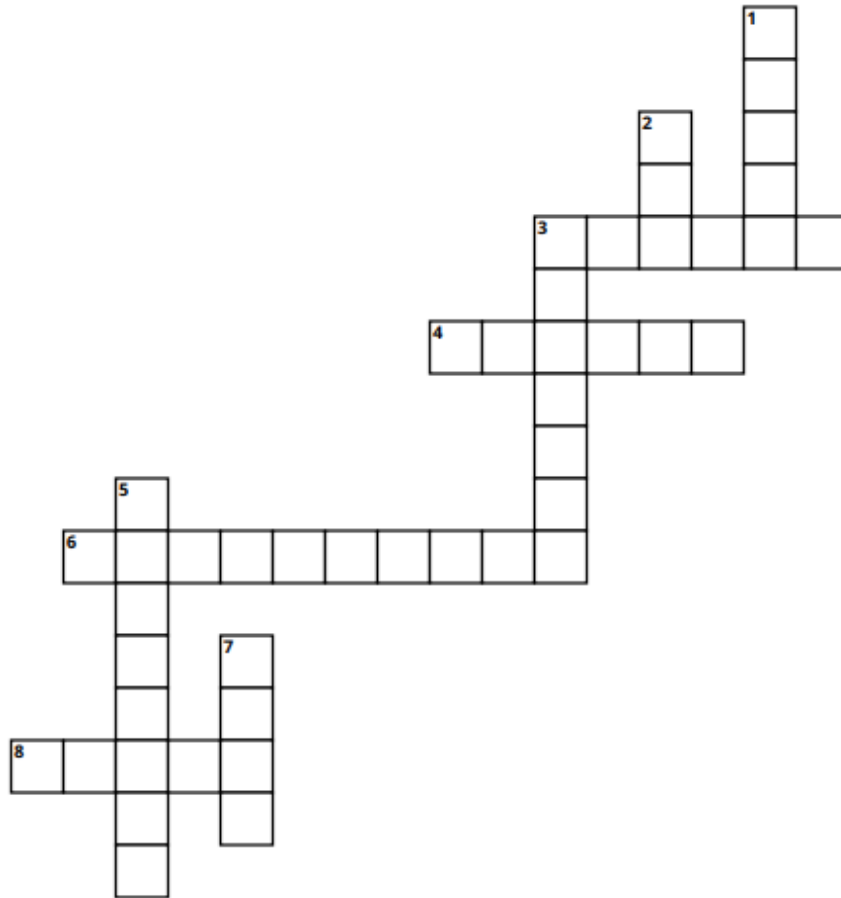






## Calverley Crossword

To solve the clues below you will need to remember what you have learned so far, and you might need to explore the house a little more carefully! When you know the answers, fill in the grid. Can you solve them all?



### Across

- [3]** Lots of the men in the family were given the name William or...?
- [4]** What is the rider of the horse wearing to protect his head? (Find me in the kitchen)
- [6]** The type of wooden roof in the great hall
- [8]** The historic name for the middle section of the house, sometimes used to describe something related to the sun

### Down

- [1]** How many windows are in the sitting room?
- [2]** The animal on the Calverley family coat of arms
- [3]** The name of the person who created the painted chamber
- [5]** The religion of the Calverley family
- [7]** Spot me on the walls of the painted chamber. I sit in a pair, I have wings but I'm not an angel or a scary creature, what am I?



## Can you answer these quiz questions?



1. Which section of Calverley Old Hall is the oldest?

The Chapel

The Great Hall

The Solar

The Painted Chamber

2. What are the outside walls of Calverley Old Hall made from?

Bricks

Stone

Wood

Clay

3. Who was on the throne when Calverley Old Hall was first built? (psst. check unruly rulers..)

Queen Victoria

King Henry VII

King Edward III

King Henry VIII

4. What colour is NOT found on the walls of the painted chamber?

Black

White

Green

Red

5. What was the surname of the family before they changed it to Calverley?

Scot

Sussex

Davies

Thomas

6. When was the first bit of Calverley Old Hall built?

1200

1320

1480

1550

7. What happened to the house when the Calverley family left?

It fell down

It was made into cottages

Another rich family moved in

It was made into a hospital

8. What used to surround Calverley Old Hall when the Calverley family lived here?

Houses

Tents

Farmland

A beach

9. What material did we study in the building to find out how old each section was?

Timber beams

Stone walls

Bricks

Plaster

### Answers:

Down  
1. Three  
2. Owl  
3. William  
5. Catholic  
7. Bird

Crossword  
Across  
3. Walter  
4. Helmet  
6. Hammerbeam  
8. Solar

6. 1320  
7. It was made into cottages  
8. Farmland  
9. Timber beams

1. The Solar  
2. Stone  
3. King Edward III  
4. Green  
5. Scot

## Discover more about Calverley Old Hall...

Calverley Old Hall has been here for over 700 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

The house has had lots of different people living here over the years. The Calverley family lived here for over 400 years.

Stand upstairs in the solar (living room). Take a look at the huge wooden beams above your head. Can you spot the carvings on them where they meet the walls? Are they all the same?

The Calverley family sold the house in the 1700s, and it was rented out to people in the village as small cottages.

Now stand with your back to the fireplace. Can you spot the remains of the old metal gaslights that would have been used to light one of these cottages?

**Fact:** The Calverley family were originally called the Scot family but changed their name after moving to Calverley village. What would your name be if you changed your name to the place where you live?

Look at the picture on the right. This shows Calverley Old Hall in 1965. In the 1800s, two more cottages were built onto the front of the chapel. They were knocked down in the 1980s. Can you spot them in the picture?

With an adult, go outside and look closely at the front of the chapel. Can you see the marks left from the cottage roofs on the Chapel above the windows?



### Fact:

We have been able to find out when each part of the building was built by studying the wooden beams.

This is called **dendrochronology, or tree ring dating**. Expert scientists take small samples of wood and can find out how old they are by looking at the growth rings in the centre of the tree. They look at the thickness of each ring and compare it to a database so they can tell which years the tree was growing.



# Living in Calverley Old Hall

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The plan below shows you the shape of each room on the ground floor. Explore the building and write on the plan what each room is now used for.

Ground Floor



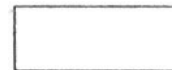
We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplan to show where the furniture is.



Bathroom



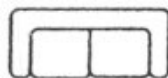
Bed



Table



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Calverley Old Hall. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your **favourite piece of furniture**

A **fireplace**

Draw the **pattern of a rug** on the floor

In the box below, have a go at drawing the **view from your bedroom window**. Are there any trees or plants which look interesting? Can you see any other buildings?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a view from a bedroom window.