

Key Stage 2:

History - How did life change in our locality in Victorian Times

Key Stage 3:

History - Industrial Changes Reaction and Action

Public and Community Life



This jug is a souvenir from the Great Exhibition in 1851. This was a huge event staged in London. There were 13,000 exhibits from all over Great Britain and the colonies to highlight the achievements in industry, technology, art and design. The exhibition was the idea of the Queen's husband, Prince Albert, and was housed in a huge steel and glass building in Hyde Park, called the Crystal Palace. Queen Victoria was one of 6,200,000 people who attended the exhibition and she was immensely impressed. The exhibition symbolised the pride people felt for the country and the advancements of the Industrial Revolution.

Through the exhibition Prince Albert showcased the achievements of the age. He presented the art and culture of countries from all over the world: Indian jewels, Chinese lacquer work and Persian carpets. Representing industry, there was a reaping machine from America, a British invented loom and there were demonstrations of steel production and of the uses of electricity. The range of exhibits was immense.

If you could be Prince Albert and organise a great exhibition today what things would you celebrate? Make a list of the 5 most important things that make you proud of your area and your country. How would you represent these on a souvenir? Design a jug or some other commemorative item and decorate it.

Leisure Time

In Harrogate by the end of Queen Victoria's time people had more leisure opportunities. Here are some of the things that they could do:

- Visit the library
- Take the Harrogate Spa Water
- Play football for a club or watch matches
- Go bicycling with a touring club
- Play or watch women's football (this was not very popular, though Harrogate had one of the first demonstration matches in 1896.)
- Travel by train to watch sport
- Join a local church
- Join a trade organisation
- Take part in amateur dramatics

Compare these things with those you might do today. Which things are the same? What's different? What new things do people do today that weren't available in Victorian times?