# Lutley Primary School

Learning, Caring, Aiming High - Together

Year 2

Local study 260, Hagley Road House

## Suggested family experience

Black Country Living Museum Discovery Way

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## **National Curriculum**

KS1 - significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

## Local

The nail trade dominated the industrial life of Halesowen up until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Nearly every cottage possessed a single storey nail shop in the back yard.

### National

By the early nineteenth century, nail-makers were using hand-operated screw-presses to cut nails from sheets of metal, but it was not until the introduction of steam-powered nail-cutting machines to Birmingham in 1811 that the mechanisation of nail manufacture truly began to take off.

### International

In 1795, the first U.S. nail-cutting machine was invented. This machine allowed for the mass production of uniform nails in various sizes and lengths. Cut nails were made by cutting them from sheets of iron, which were then shaped and pointed.

## **Builds on Knowledge and Skills**

In year I, you explored how Lutley Primary School has changed. When it was first built, it was a middle school with two classes per year. Over the years, the number of children attending Lutley has increased, so now it is a three-form entry primary school. The main reason for the increase in children attending Lutley is because of the number of houses that have been built on the Squirrels Estate. Over the last 50 years, there have been many changes. It started off as a middle school, then it changed to a primary school, the uniform has changed, the building has been extended to make it bigger, the technology that teachers and children use has changed significantly.

## Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
Farm labourer	A person doing unskilled manual work on a farm.
Grade II listed building	A building is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance.
Vernacular building.	A building outside any academic tradition, and built without professional guidance.
Agricultural	Practice of farming.
Water closet	A room containing a toilet.
Industrial	Relating to or characterized by industry.



Nailers standing outside the glassless nail shop window of the cottage in 1909 (the hatch and shutters still survive)

#### What was 'nail making?'

Nail-making was heavy, laborious and dangerous work. Nailers would collect 60 lb bundles of iron nail-rod from a nail-master's warehouse and take them back to their homes, which often had a cramped nail-shop attached. They heated and cut a length of rod, hammered it into the required length and thickness, pointed the end, and formed the head with a few blows of the hammer. At the end of the week, the nailers would take sackfuls of finished nails back to the nail master. Adults and adolescents would make the nails, while young children heated the rods and pumped the hearth. Nail-making was a job that the whole family did.

### Quick Summary

A farm labourer's cottage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, later in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century used as a nail maker's cottage, to which a nail shop was added. It is believed to be Hasbury's last-known surviving vernacular building. Its industrial adaptation: means it retains a 19<sup>th</sup> Century nail shop, a rare survival from the nail-making industry, which was once so prevalent in this area. Overall the house survives relatively intact, retaining a significant proportion of 18<sup>th</sup> Century historic fabric.

#### **Main Events**

18<sup>th</sup> Century: Built as a farm labourer's cottage.



19<sup>th</sup> Century: Converted to a nail makers cottage

20<sup>th</sup> Century: Stripped of nail making equipment.

21<sup>st</sup> Century: Fell into dis-repair.

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding. Why is the house at 260 Hagley Road significant in Halesowen?

What was the Hagley Road house used for? What does the house tell us about the changes in the Hasbury area of Halesowen?



Location: 260 Hagley Road, Hasbury, Halesowen, West Midlands

District: Dudley (Metropolitan Authority)

National Grid Reference: S09581982948

Start with a modern map of the Hasbury area of Halesowen and locate 260 Hagley Road house on it. Then use different coloured crayons and make a key of water, brook, streams. Roads. Familiar buildings. Then work back in time.

## **Towards Halesowen Town Centre**

Next, start with a modern aerial photograph of the Hasbury area and do the same as the maps. Locate 260 Hagley Road, main roads, water, familiar buildings such as St. Margaret's church. Then work back in time.



Hasbury, up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, was predominantly an agricultural area, and it is believed that the cottage at No. 260 Hagley Road was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as a farm labourer's cottage. Nail making originated in Halesowen and the surrounding hamlets, including Hasbury, during the 17th Century. It was practised as a cottage industry, mainly being a part-time occupation along with farming, with the nails being made during the winter and in times of bad weather. At some time during the 19th Century, before 1880 when it is recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, a nail shop was added to the right gable end of the cottage. Also added to the cottage during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were a kitchen to the rear and an outside wash house and water closet. It is believed that the hearth, anvil and tools were removed from the nail shop in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. For the past 20 years, the cottage has stood empty, its windows and door partially blocked up. Its roof partially collapsed in the early 21st Century. Someone has recently bought the cottage and is restoring it.



Collapsed roof and blocked windows







**Tiled roof** 

MATERIALS: the collage is constructed from coursed, local sandstone with brick, gable-end stacks and a claytile roof. The nail shop is of brick with a tiled roof.

PLAN: the cottage is of a single-depth plan, being of two storeys in two bays, with a single-storey nail shop attached at the right gable end.

EXTERIOR: the entrance gront, which gaces south across a long, narrow garden gronting Hagley Road, is symmetrical, with a central doorway flanked by replacement casement windows. To the first floor there are a further two replacement casement windows. Attached to the right gable end is a single-storey, lean-to nail shop with a shultered, unglazed window opening. The rear elevation of the cottage is blind, the exception being a very small, square, unglazed opening with two metal bars. To the left-hand side there is a mid to late CI9 singlestorey, lean-to kitchen extension with a casement window and a re-used fielded and panelled door. The roof at the rear has now partially collapsed.

INTERIOR: internally, the cottage has a single room to the ground floor and two rooms to the first floor, possibly still retaining gas lighting. The nail shop has lost its hearth and anvil.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: to the rear of the cottage there is a small yard with a surface of blue engineering brick. At one side are the collapsed remains of a mid-late 19th Century wash house and water closet.







Sandstone Walls

