



ACOUSTIGUIDE
Schools' Tour

**At Milestones – Hampshire's Living History
Museum**

VICTORIAN BRITAIN – UKS2

SCRIPT FOR RECORDING

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**With contributions from
Hampshire primary schoolchildren**

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UKS2 Victorian

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This topic focuses on how a Victorian street compares to streets today by investigating street furniture, sights, sounds and the types of shops encountered during the period.

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0 Introduction

NARRATOR

Hello! Welcome to Milestones.

Milestones is Hampshire's Living History Museum and it's a very special place. You can actually walk down streets and see the shops, houses and factories that existed here in Hampshire in the past. It will help you to imagine what it would have been like to live in Hampshire over the past 200 years, and it's a very exciting way to explore history.

You're holding in your hand an Opus Click and I'll explain how it works.

As you walk through Milestones, you'll be stopping at certain places to listen to me. The adult with you has a map and will tell you what number to press. All you have to do to hear me talking is to enter the number on your keypad and then press the green PLAY button.

If you want to pause my voice for any reason just press the green button a second time; and when you're ready to go on, press the same button again. If you make a mistake typing in a number, or want to stop my voice completely, just press the red "STOP" button.

You can change the volume by using the switch on the left-hand side of your player.

You can also FAST FORWARD or REWIND using the buttons above the PLAY and STOP buttons.

*The Trail Team shout:
"hello"*

NARRATOR

Noisy bunch aren't they! That's the trail team from Woodcot Primary School and Four Marks Church of England Primary School and you'll be hearing from them from time to time. As we look round the museum they are going to help us to search for clues and give us a few ideas of their own.

Here they are sharing some interesting facts about the building

*Trail team:
Five Olympic sized swimming pools could fit into the museum
136 double-decker buses could be parked inside the museum's walls
66, 250 chickens could stand side by side*

We hope you enjoy your visit but please don't forget to return your Opus Click when you've finished the tour!

Houses and Homes

49. Kingdon's the Ironmonger

NARRATOR:

On the corner of Jubilee Street is TM Kingdon's, a Victorian ironmonger's shop. It was known as an ironmonger's as many of the things it sold were made of metal, including iron. Visiting the ironmonger's in Victorian times was like visiting a DIY shop today, as you could find hundreds of different things to use in the home, all crammed in together - pots and pans, oil lamps, tools, brushes and watering cans. Can you imagine the smell of soap, wax candles and polish inside?

The Victorians were very keen on inventing new gadgets and machines to make life in the home a bit easier. As the nineteenth century progressed they made all sorts of devices to help with everyday tasks.

Look closely at some of the objects in the window and see if you can find any that would have helped in the kitchen with food storage and preparation.

Press pause while you look and play when you are ready.

See if you can spot anything in the window that is connected to water and with keeping yourself washed and clean.

Most houses had no taps or running water upstairs so the people living in the houses would fill a jug with water from downstairs and pour it into a bowl for washing themselves. Can you see a Victorian tin bath hanging up beside the door? It has handles to carry it, as the family would probably have moved it to the warmest spot in the house - perhaps by the kitchen range or by the fire in the front room. In summer it might have been put in the backyard! The water would have been boiled in pans and kettles on the range until there was enough to fill the bath. It was hard work keeping clean, and some people only took a bath once a week. Families also often used to share bath water.

SFX: Sound of water sloshing in tin bath and a man humming Victorian popular song

Towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign some houses had running water installed. What differences do you think this made to family life?

Now take a look in the shop window and talk in your group about some of the mystery objects you see. Can you work out what any of them are for?

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50. The Pantehnicon – (Furniture removal vehicle)

NARRATOR

The Pantehnicon is like a Victorian removals lorry and the best place to see it is to stand at the back by the two workmen.

They are unloading the furniture of a Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murray who have just moved into this cottage in Anna Valley Place. Mr Murray is an engineer and he has moved here from London to work for a Hampshire company called Taskers. Taskers make steam engines and as the removal men said, Taskers want to build 'the biggest and the best' of the new steam engines. This was the period of the industrial revolution and there was a great deal of change - people were moving into the towns and cities to find work. Skilled engineers like Mr. Murray were very important to companies like Taskers.

In the Victorian times one way to move house was using a Pantehnicon. This pantehnicon would have made the journey by road and rail. Horses would pull the pantehnicon to and from the railway station and the whole pantehnicon would then be loaded on to a train. In Victorian times thousands of miles of railway track were being laid so it made sense for long distance removals to use the railway. It was also a good system because you only had to pack and unpack once.

Take a look at the Murrays' furniture and imagine their day-to-day lives. Think about whether you can tell from the furniture whether they were rich or poor. Talk in your group about what you think.

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51. 11 and 12 Jubilee Street

NARRATOR

Look at the cottages numbered 11 and 12 Jubilee Street.

These buildings show what cottages would have looked like over a hundred years ago, and they would have been part of a row of terraced cottages or workman's cottages. During the Victorian times Mr. and Mrs. Biddle lived at number 11. The name Biddle is marked on the brass door knocker. What historical evidence can you find that tells you these houses are old?

Press pause while you talk in your group about your ideas and play when you are finished.

Lots of houses built over 100 years ago are still standing today - you might actually live in one, perhaps with a brass knocker like the Biddles or with sash windows that slide up and down. Or you might live in a house that is modern and was built recently. Most Victorian houses were made of bricks like these, but nowadays houses can be made of concrete, glass, wood or even plastic. These houses also have chimneys. Victorian chimneys would have been working chimneys. The Victorians needed fires to keep their houses warm. Nowadays most houses have central heating.

Now see if you can spot two signs on the front of each cottage by the upstairs windows. On number 11 there is the sign of an angel, and on number 12 there is the sign of the sun.

These signs were called firemarks because if your house caught fire during the Victorian era, the firemen would look for a firemark when they arrived to put out the flames. This was because the firemarks were a sign to say that your house was insured by an insurance company. If the firemen couldn't see one they might leave the house to burn! The early fire brigades were paid for by the insurance company so the firemen would only put out fires in houses that they knew were insured.

Before you go...there is another family who lives in these houses. Here's a clue.

SFX: Sound of squeaking mice running about everywhere.

Take a closer look at Number 12 and see if you can spot one!

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52. 11 Jubilee Street – (sitting room)

NARRATOR:

Look through the front window of No. 11 Jubilee Street.

The room is tiny, isn't it? This is the living room of a workman's cottage and Mr. and Mrs. Biddle lived here. What are the clues that help tell you that it is a Victorian home? *Press pause while you talk in your group about your ideas and play when you're finished.*

Well there's certainly no sofa...and no TV or electric light. How do you think the room was lit? What about heating? There are no radiators are there? But the dog might give you a clue.

The Biddles would have lit the coal fire every night especially during the winter months.

Life for Victorian children was very different from today as Victorian families were quite strict, and children would have had to help with household chores, or read instructional books*and* were probably sent to bed very early.

Just beside you on your left, is a passageway that leads round to the kitchen and the backyard. Why don't you go and take a look.

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53. 11 Jubilee Street – (yard)

NARRATOR:

Right in front of you are two wooden doors. The one on the right is a place to store coal for the Biddles' fire. The one on the left is the outside toilet. You can open the door and have a look if you want..as long as no -one's using it.

Mr. Biddle

Hey...what do you think you're doing? Can't a man get a bit of peace in his own privy? I was just reading my newspaper!

NARRATOR:

That was a bit of a shock wasn't it? The Trail Team discovered Mr. Biddle too.

Trail Team

'Mr Biddle's sitting on the loo. When you go to bed at night, during the winter it would be pretty cold because you'd have to come outside to go to the toilet and all the ground would be cold'.

NARRATOR

Mr. Biddle's toilet is not plumbed-in like modern ones - it uses earth rather than water. So instead of *flushing* the toilet when you've finished, you throw a bit of earth into it. The toilet bucket was cleared away once a week in what was known as a 'violet cart.'

*..And it smelt horrible. I wouldn't have done that job for all the world....phhwoa...the men don't seem too bothered by it though. I've seen them eat their sandwiches while they worked. (Adapted from **Within Living Memory for Mr. Biddle's voice p56**)*

NARRATOR

And Mr. Biddle also uses torn up pieces of newspaper on a loop of string instead of toilet roll! Very scratchy.. and VERY cold out here on a dark, wet and wintry night!

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54. 11 Jubilee Street – (Kitchen)

NARRATOR

Now have a look through the kitchen window. Can you see the big round tub with the wooden lid? This is Mrs. Biddle's washing tub or 'copper'. Doing the washing was not just a matter of loading a machine and pressing a button...it was a task that would have taken Mrs. Biddle most of the day.

To start with she had to make a small fire in the space under the copper so that the water could be heated in there. The washing then went straight into the copper. Next the clothes had to be washed, scrubbed and rinsed and then squeezed through a mangle to wring them dry. The mangle is out here in the yard and it has two rollers to push the clothes through. Can you see how it works? Here's Mrs Biddle herself:

That mangle is so heavy I have to use both hands to wind the handle. It doesn't half make my arms ache. But the worst thing is if the weather's bad and I can't hang the clothes out....it's disastrous....as I have to light the fire in the sitting room and hang the clothes all round the room to dry. Mr. Biddle doesn't like that....he doesn't like that at all. (Adapted for Mrs. Biddle's voice from Within Living Memory extract p64)

To the left as you look through the window you can see Mrs. Biddle's cooking range. It was a horrible job to scrub it clean every day and make sure that the fire didn't go out. Think how much time it would have taken Mrs Biddle to do the washing and the cooking and how this compares with cooking and cleaning our homes today.

What other items can you spot in the kitchen that Mrs. Biddle would have used to wash her clothes or clean her home? Talk in your group about your thoughts.

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55. The Gypsy Caravan

NARRATOR:

This brightly painted caravan was not for summer holidays - it was a family home and would have been lived in all year round. A horse, from between wooden shafts, would have pulled the caravan along.

Gypsy people lived in caravans like this because they were always on the move looking for seasonal work on local farms, helping the farmers to pick fruit, or at agricultural shows like the one next to the caravan.

To earn money they made clothes pegs out of wood to sell to people. Can you spot them?

The caravan is beautifully decorated, isn't it? Perhaps this is because it was a family home and so it was very important to the family that it was kept in perfect condition.

Now move back to the steps in front of the caravan. What are the clues that tell you the caravan is a home?

Can you spot all the beds that the family would have slept in? There's one on a shelf at the back of the caravan, one in the cupboard underneath....and another outside in the homemade tent. The family needed this special type of tent called a bender as there isn't really room for them all to sleep inside.

How would the family have cooked and kept themselves warm do you think? Talk in your group and see what ideas you can come up with.

People

56. The Match Boy

NARRATOR

During the Victorian era you would have seen matchboys standing on street corners. He is holding out a box of matches hoping to catch the eye of a passer-by.

Matchboy

Lights, lights, get yer lights. You want a match?...All weathers, you'll find me here. I bin up and down that mountain before I had me breakfast.

Victorian men in particular regularly smoked pipes, cigars and cigarettes and they might buy their matches or 'lights' from a Match Boy like this. There is a tobacconist's shop a little further down this street.

Take a closer look at the Match Boy. Have you noticed his thin, worn clothes and bare feet? And can you see the mud on his face? He says that he has to stand here in 'all weathers'. Imagine standing on a cold, wet street corner perhaps for twelve hours a day.

The Match Boy is probably about eight years old. Why do you think he isn't at school? It wasn't until 1870 that schools were made available for all children. Before that, if you were from a wealthy family you might be sent away to school or taught at home, but children from poorer families had to work to try to help their family earn some money. Some might sell matches like this boy, but others had to work in factories, sometimes for long hours.

In Britain today young children are not allowed to work in a factory or selling matches on street corners as they are protected by law, but think about how children are still treated in other parts of the world.

Would you like to be a matchboy or would you prefer to go to school? Talk in your group about what you think.

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57. The Sawmill

NARRATOR

This is a sawmill where logs of wood were cut into planks for timber to make houses, furniture, carts and boats.

SFX: Man shouting 'Timber!'

Look at the two men in front of you, and in particular, look at the clothes they are wearing.

The man behind is wearing a grey wool suit, with a waistcoat and tie...and the man in front who is bent over the saw is wearing rough trousers, an apron and a shirt. Who do you think is the manager and who is the worker? Maybe the Trail Team have an idea?

Trail Team

'I think the man with the suit on is the boss because he looks more posher and he is just looking at the sawdust like thinking that that is good work and the man who has got all the sawdust on him with the apron I think he is the worker because he is studying the wood and he is got all dirty. I think the man in the suit has to be the boss because he isn't doing anything he is just holding the sawdust and looking at the wood in the worker's hand.'

What do you think it would be like to work in this saw mill? Quite noisy and dangerous. Can you see the round saw cutting its way through the log of wood? This saw mill is powered by a steam engine.

The owner has introduced the steam powered saw because it's much quicker than the old hand saws. The steam powered saw makes it easier for the men to cut the wood, but the saw is very sharp and would have spun round very fast.

In Victorian times the man working the saw would not have had much protection. There is no guard to protect him from the saw's sharp edges and no goggles on his eyes to shield him from the dust and wood chips. In a sawmill today, the owner would have to make sure that his workers were protected.

How many people can you spot working in the Sawmill? Look round and see if you can spot them all.

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58. Agricultural Showground Salesman

NARRATOR

At the back of the Gypsy Caravan you will find two figures. On the left is a salesman and on the right is a rich farmer.

If you look at the vehicles on the showground you will see what the salesman hopes to sell. A show ground like this was the best way of selling machinery and equipment for farms and the salesman is hoping that the farmer will buy a traction engine. Traction engines are very powerful and they are able to pull very heavy loads or drive other machines - like the circular saw in the Sawmill.

The rich farmer owns a lot of land and the salesman is trying to persuade him that the new steam powered traction engines are very powerful and will help his workers on the farm.

The rich farmer is uncertain as it is a new and different way of working. He is used to working with horses to help him plough his land and bring in the crops. The salesman has told him that the traction engine will cost him four hundred pounds, which was a huge amount of money in the Victorian era. He is having to think very carefully whether or not he will buy one.

All of these engines burn coal which can be a bit smoky. Why do you think the engines' tall chimneys were important? Talk in your group about your ideas.

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59. The family at the railway station

NARRATOR

Look closely at the family who have just arrived at the railway station.

The mother is travelling to Bombay in India where her husband works. She is taking her baby and the nanny with her, and the Nanny is helping her to climb out of the Governess cart. They are travelling by steam train to London and then by steam ship to India, and the journey will take several weeks. Her son Richard, who is holding the reins of the pony, has asked if he can go with her part of the way, but he is a pupil at a boarding school so he must stay behind.

The family has plenty of money. The mother is about to embark on a long and expensive journey to India, but she can afford to have a nanny to help her with the baby, and she can also afford high-quality clothes. Many Victorians living in Hampshire might have visited Winchester or Portsmouth on the train, but travelling up to London would have been a special journey. Travelling abroad was only for very rich people as it was extremely expensive. Not all families could afford to educate their children in the Victorian times as it would have been expensive to send a boy to boarding school.

Travelling by steam train and steam ship would be quite dirty. People often had special clothes just for travelling and when they arrived they brushed them down and aired them to get rid of dust and grime.

What do you wear when you are going on a journey? Talk in your group about your ideas.

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60 The coalmen in the coal yard

NARRATOR

Look at the two coalmen unloading coal from a wagon in the station yard. They know all about the railways.

The coalmen have an important job as they are delivering the coal that people burn on their home fires to keep warm and to boil water for things like washing.

Their clothes are covered in coal dust and they would have spent much of their time lifting and carrying the heavy coal sacks.

These coalmen were working at a time when coal was being mined at the rate of about 250 million tons a year. Most coal was carried by train so you can imagine how many coal trains you would have seen. Most railway stations had a coal yard where coal was offloaded and then it was taken by road to places nearby that needed it.

What do you think it would have been like to be one of these coalmen doing this job? Talk in your group about what you think.

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61. The workers in Tasker's

NARRATOR

This is a Victorian factory that made objects out of wrought iron, cast iron and wood. The best place to stand is in front of the two figures busy at work. The factory is called Tasker's Ironworks and it made things like farm machines and the cogs and wheels that drove Victorian steam engines.

Have a closer look at those two figures. Who do you think is the boss and who is the worker?

The figure in the brown coat on the left is holding a large spanner and is bent over a machine that helps him to cut the metal into shape. Can you see the dust on his boots? He appears to be hard at work.

The figure on the right in the black hat and suit looks on. He is the manager of Tasker's ironworks. His clothes are smarter as he doesn't have to do any of the dirty work. He stands with an air of importance and is watching the worker closely - perhaps he's checking to make sure there are no mistakes?

Life was changing very quickly in Victorian times and people were leaving the countryside to come and work in new industries such as ironworking in towns like Andover and Basingstoke. Ironworks were busy places as there was much demand for the steam engines that drove Victorian machinery.

As you walk round the museum you will see the engines and machinery that Tasker's would have helped to build. *Talk in your groups about what the engines and machinery were for.*

Transport

62. The Governess Cart and the Railway Station

NARRATOR

The best place to stand to look at this exhibit is beside the man in the uniform and hat.

SFX: Sound of the steam train.

That high pitched whistle is the sound of a steam locomotive. The building is a replica of Chesil Street Station in Winchester, and the three red letters stitched onto the guard's hat..... **G W R**..... stand for Great Western Railway. The family outside the station are arriving to catch a train. How have they got here though?

The family have arrived by horse and cart. How do you think the driver of the cart controls the horse? Can you find the whip to make the horse go faster and the brake to slow the cart down? In the middle of Queen Victoria's reign many people still travelled by horse and cart, and the new railways meant there were more horse drawn vehicles driving to and from the stations to bring people and goods to meet the trains.

Think about the differences between travelling by a horse-drawn cart and by steam train. Let's see what The Trail Team thinks.

Trail Team

'I would rather prefer a steam train to anything, but if you wanted just a quiet walk around the street or the town, I'd rather take a horse and cart because it would have been much easier to see what was going on and you could stop anywhere. I reckon I'd prefer going by horse and cart. It may be slower but it would be more gentle and you won't be going so fast. So if I went by steam train it would smell of steam all the time.'

SFX: Sound of guard shouting out names on the Winchester Chesil Street line.plus sound of train – Winchester, Sutton Scotney, Whitchurch, Litchfield, Burghclere, Highclere, Newbury

During the Victorian times the building of the railways was one of the biggest new developments. The landscape changed as railway lines and stations cut across fields and woods, towns and cities. Some Victorian people complained about the building of the railways but the development of the trains meant that many more people had the chance to visit other parts of the country for days out and holidays.

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With your group see how many types of travel you can think of from Victorian times.

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63. The Tram

SFX: Clanging tram bell

NARRATOR:

This is a double-decker tram. Double-decker means that there are two levels and passengers could choose to sit inside the tram looking out of the window or climb the stairs to sit up at the top. Like buses today, trams were a form of public transport that carried you around the towns and cities. This tram could carry up to 46 passengers.

This tram was built in 1884 towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign, and like a train it runs on tracks - or tram lines laid into the roads. Can you see the tramlines?

The trams were originally pulled by horses...but later, *electric* trams like this one, replaced the horse-drawn trams.

Can you see how the pole from the top of the tram would have connected with electric cables hanging overhead? The electricity would make the wheels move along the tramlines. The tram ran backwards and forwards along the same stretch of tramline, but it never had to turn round.

Have you spotted that there are actually two driver's platforms - one at each end? The driver would reach the end of the line, and walk down from one end of the tram to the other and back he would go.

On the busy Victorian streets people were occasionally knocked down by trams like this one, but if you look under one end can you see a wooden gate that drops down just below the driver's platform?

This is the life preserver and stopped you being dragged under the wheels, as you would roll onto the gate instead.

Which city did this tram come from? Look with your group and see if you can find the answer.

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64. On Foot

Stand in the middle of the Victorian streets.

As you walked here, what did you notice about the road? It's not very even, is it? It's made of cobblestones, which are quite rough underfoot. Now look around and listen to the sounds of street for a moment.

Pause built into guide to listen to museum sounds.

Imagine a street full of horses, carts....bicycles, puddles....and all that horse dung....oh and mind the tram! Victorian traffic was pretty busy too!

Not everyone was rich enough to own a horse and cart and in Victorian times there were no cars of course, so your feet were the best thing for getting about. Think about what this might mean for getting to school or going to work.

*I had to walk three miles just to get to my school...and three miles back at the end of the day..that's six miles every day, whether it was wet or dry. (Adapted from **Within Living Memory**)*

Six miles every day! Wouldn't your legs ache if you had to walk that far...and Victorian children certainly didn't wear trainers.

If you want to see what sort of shoes Victorian people used to wear, go and have a look in the Coop window. Which pair would you choose?

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65. Lawson's Safety Bicycle

NARRATOR:

Take a close look at the size and shape of this bicycle leaning up against the railings.

Towards the end of the Victorian era cycling was becoming very popular. Long before the car became a part of everyday life, the bicycle gave people the chance to ride out into the countryside and travel around England.

SFX: Cycle bell

The first bicycle was invented in 1839, but the early cycles were expensive and quite heavy and dangerous to ride. You might have seen a penny farthing with its huge front wheel and high saddle. Penny farthings were very popular both for riding and racing - but were only suitable for young men to ride - as the saddle was so high up. It was a dangerous and awkward business just climbing onto the bicycle. Cyclists began to want bicycles that were a bit less hazardous.

This bicycle was invented in 1876 and is a replica of a Lawson's Safety Bicycle. It was a lot safer than the penny farthing and a lot easier to climb on to!

Look carefully at how this bicycle works and compare it to a modern day bicycle. Look at the saddle and the size and shape of the wheels. Can you see what the tyres are made of?

The tyres are rubber, but solid rubber and much less comfortable to ride than the air-filled wheels we have on bikes today.

What other differences can you spot between this bike and bikes today. Talk in your group about what you think.

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66. Liming's garage & 1903 Thornycroft car

NARRATOR:

Look inside the garage. The man on the right is Mr. Liming and he owns the garage. He is repairing the car for the man on the left who is a vicar. Before Mr. Liming became a motor mechanic, he was a blacksmith and this was a blacksmith's shop - you can see the old forge in the middle behind the two figures where Mr. Liming made tools and horse shoes.

Mr Liming realised that the car was going to be a new and very exciting way of travelling about. He could see that cars were going to be more popular forms of transport than the old horse drawn vehicles so he became a motor mechanic.

The first car was invented at the very end of the Victorian period and this car - a Thornycroft car - was built shortly after Queen Victoria had died. It marked a very important change in transport - the change from vehicles that were horse drawn to those that had an engine and ran on petrol.

Look at it very closely and think about the differences between this car and cars today. *Press pause while you look and play when you are ready.*

There are lots of differences, aren't there? This car has no roof, there's no windscreen, and no seat belts. Because there was no windscreen, drivers often wore hats and goggles to keep the dust and wind out of their eyes. You had to tie your hat on very tight to stop it blowing off.

Early cars were really luxurious items and so very few people owned one. You would be very lucky to see one out on the roads at all a hundred years ago. Even by the Second World War, when many more people could afford to own a car, it was still very exciting to see one like this drive by.

Think how many cars you might see in just one afternoon nowadays!

SFX: Cacophony of car horns and 21st century traffic

Can you spot the mechanic who is working on the car? Where is he?

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Shops & Streets

67. Jubilee Street Furniture

NARRATOR:

Stand in the middle of the Victorian streets, outside the greengrocer's.

Listen to the sounds of the street and look around you. What are the clues that tell you this is a Victorian street? *Press pause if you need more time and play when you are ready.*

You may have spotted the cobblestones, the coal holes and the tramlines and heard the sound of horses' hooves. The letterbox on the corner by the fire station is a different design to the modern postbox. Have you noticed the green street lamps? These would have been lit in the evenings just after sunset by a lamplighter and would have had a much dimmer glow than the electric streetlights we have today.

But this street is the museum's version of a Victorian street. What is missing from this street that the Victorians would have experienced? Maybe the Trail Team can help.

Trail Team

'You'd hear lots of conversations and birds singing especially in the morning and you'll hear kids running around and the paperman on his stool shouting round the street. You'd probably smell things like horse dung and you could probably hear the click clacking of horses going down the street.'

The museum can present an interpretation of history for modern day visitors, but it cannot be exactly as the Victorians would have experienced it.

Do you know why this street is called Jubilee street?

In 1887 Queen Victoria had been Queen for fifty years, so Hampshire celebrated her Golden Jubilee with picnics in the parks and parties in the local town halls. The same celebrations happened ten years later when she had been Queen for sixty years for her Diamond Jubilee and children were given a Jubilee Mug. This street was named Jubilee Street as a mark of these celebrations.

Would you like to have been a Victorian person living in these streets? Talk in your group about your thoughts.

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68. The Co-op

NARRATOR:

Stand outside the Co-op and look at the display of food.

There are a lot of things look at aren't there? Can you see how the boxes and packets are brightly coloured and piled on top of one another to look exciting and to catch your eye?

The idea of packaging food in boxes and tins with colourful labels was new to the Victorians. In Victorian times, not everyone went to school, so many people wouldn't have been able to read what was written on the packets. Towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign many more food items were made in large quantities and put into packets at the factory.

These packets and boxes also stopped some shopkeepers cheating their customers. Before the sealed packets arrived, they would interfere with the products they sold - watering down milk, adding brick dust to pepper and plaster dust to flour to make more money. Imagine mixing up a cake with plaster dust in it! It would set like concrete.

In some ways the Co-op is like a supermarket, because you could buy all sorts of things in one shop. It had big glass windows to display the goods. In Victorian times, the Co-op was the place where you knew that you could buy good food at a reasonable price. The new railways would deliver food supplies from all over the country.

Now go inside the shop. With your group, have a look behind the counter at what is being sold. What would you buy?

UKS2 Victorian Britain Audioguide

69. The Saddler's

NARRATOR:

This shop sells saddles, stirrups, bridles - everything you can think of to do with horses. You can even smell the leather from the bridles hanging outside the shop, can't you!

Have you noticed the bar outside the shop where visitors to the Saddler's could tie up their horse?

Nowadays we mainly ride horses for pleasure, but for the Victorians horses also had to work and they were essential for everyday life. There were horse drawn trams and buses, horses to help the farmers to plough the fields and cut the hay, and horses to pull heavy loads of coal and goods to the railway stations in a cart.

At the end of the nineteenth century in Hampshire there were thousands of horses working on the farms or pulling carts, trams, buses and carriages. They were needed more than ever when the railways were built to carry people to and from the station. It was only just before the Second World War that people began to switch to driving a motor car and the farmers began to replace their horses with tractors.

Now have a closer look through the window. Can you see in the middle of the window there is a saddle with two strange horns sticking out from the side? This was a side-saddle that a Victorian lady might use to ride. She would ride sideways on, dressed in a long skirt, with her legs hooked around those two horns. Imagine trying to jump over a ditch or a hedge!

See if you can find out which day of the week the Saddler's was closed.

UKS2 Victorian Britain Audioguide

70. Willis's The Jeweller's

NARRATOR:

Stand in front of the jeweller's shop and look at the display in the window.

The jeweller's shop is much grander than the greengrocer's shop next door. Look at how polished and shiny the silver dishes and clocks are in the window. The owner Mr. Willis has carefully arranged his jewellery and silverware in the hope that it might catch your eye as you walk past.

Now stand back and look at the shop itself. It is also quite polished and shiny like the contents. Look at the doorbell...and the two lamps hanging over the shop window.

These are gas lamps and would have lit up the shop window. Can you imagine the light reflecting off the metal surfaces, and how it might attract your attention on a dark, foggy day? The lamps had to hang outside the shop window rather than inside, as they were gas lamps and the fumes from the gas would have made the silver inside look faded and dull.

Look at the name written over the window and the elaborate gold pattern across the top. The wooden name plate is original and is over a hundred years old. It belonged to a shop in Basingstoke and was rescued for Milestones when the shop was demolished. The museum has carefully restored it to look as it would have done in the Victorian times.

What would you like to buy from this shop? Talk in your group about your ideas.

UKS2 Victorian Britain Audioguide

71. The Milliner's

NARRATOR

Half way down Cuckoo Lane is a milliner's shop. A milliner makes hats and bonnets for ladies. The best place to stand is by the shop window looking at the display of hats.

If you step back a bit, can you see the name Rhodes and Ryde above the shop window? Miss Rhodes and Miss Ryde were the milliners who owned this shop. During the Victorian period no one would have considered going out without wearing a hat - men, women or children - so this shop would have been quite busy. There would be hats for every occasion - weddings, going to church, travelling, or just walking along the High Street. Look through the window and imagine yourself wearing one of these hats.

If you were wealthy you might have spent a good deal of money on a hat - so it needed to look lavish. It was a way of saying 'look at me!' Some women chose to wear very large hats in sumptuous colours and fabrics.

Miss Rhodes and Miss Ryde live above the shop. Look up and you will be able to see their window. What sort of street sounds do you think they might have heard?

Press pause while you think and play when you are ready.

Well, there's the sound of horses' hooves and carts in Jubilee Street and people walking up and down on their way to the pub or the saddler's. People might be hurrying in and out of the Post Office across the road with their letters....and have you noticed that the Fire Station is next door?

SFX: Fire Station bell

Can you see that some of the hats are decorated with feathers? What sort of decoration would you like on a hat? Talk in your group about your ideas.

UKS2 Victorian Britain Audioguide

72. Greengrocer's

NARRATOR

This is a Victorian greengrocer's which sold fruit and vegetables. What can you see in the shop window? Perhaps there are oranges and apples? Are there bunches of carrots hanging from hooks?

The fruit and vegetables that this Victorian greengrocer would have displayed in his window depended on what time of year it was. Today we can get all sorts of fruit and vegetables all the year round as produce is flown in from abroad to our shops and supermarkets.

In Victorian times most fruit and vegetables could not have been easily transported across the world. This means that it was 'seasonal' and only available at certain times of year. Apples for instance would only appear in the shops when the fruit was ripe enough to be picked from the trees.

Gradually advances in transport such as refrigerated ships meant that more exotic fruits such as bananas could be bought in from all around the world.

Victorians didn't actually eat a lot of fruit or vegetables. Poorer families ate potatoes, bread, dripping and tea. Richer families preferred lots of meat.

Are there any fruits or vegetables not here that you like to eat? Talk in your groups about what's on display and what's missing. Think about what it means to eat seasonal fruit and if your favourite fruit actually has to travel a long distance.