

Brierley Hillness



A community arts and heritage project where the people of Brierley Hill can reflect on the past and help shape the future.

Pupils Project Information Pack And Questionnaire.



What is Brierley Hillness to you?

Brierleyhillness.
One Boy, One Town, One Big Idea.

Through this pack you will be able to discover how Brierley Hill has become the place it is today. The production 'One Boy, One Town, One Big Idea' explores the past present and future of the town. If you are reading this then you are a young person from Brierley Hill, the future of the area and it's buildings will one day be in your hands. What will that future look like?

The name Brierley Hill comes from three Anglo-Saxon words:
Brer – this word describes a place where the Briar Rose grew.
Leah – this is woodland clearing.
Hill – has the same meaning today.

Do you know where there is an image of the Briar Rose in Brierley Hill?

Scene 1 - The Christening Of George Beddard at St. Michaels Church.

At the beginning of the play the new baby is christened at St. Michaels Church.

There has been a church on this site since 1765; it had to be made larger as the number of people living in Brierley Hill grew in 1823, 1837 and 1865. The church has a large stained glass window.

Scene 2 – George And Nan's Day trip.

George enjoys his day trips with his Nan he enjoys her stories about the buildings and history of his town.

During the journey George's Nan buys them a pork pie to share. Marsh And Baxter Ltd would have made it. Mr Alfred Marsh bought a company that produced bacon in High Street; his bacon was well liked by the people of Brierley Hill so he had to make a larger factory in Hall Street.

Sausages, black pudding and pies were made and even the hair removed from the skin of the pigs was put to use in the brush factory in North Street. For many years they fed people far and wide including members of the Royal family. They were very important during World War Two giving advice about how to cope with food shortages of the time. The factory had its own Home Guard and Fire Brigade.

In the 1960's and 70's difficulties caused the factory to close. By the beginning of the 1980's the factory had been knocked down to make way for the Moor Street Shopping Centre.

George enjoys a film at the Palace Theatre; this building was on the corner of Moor Street. In Victorian Times travelling performing theatre companies set up their plays in the yard of the Horse Shoe Hotel, then over time a stage was created in the pub. After a fire in 1920 at the wooden theatre was rebuilt in brick where films and plays could be seen.

Do you have any favourite places in Brierley Hill that you like to visit?

Scene 3 – The Red Lion Pub.

George and his girl friend enjoy visits to the Red Lion Pub. **Have a look to see if you can see the building next time you are in Brierley Hill.**

A.T. Butler designed the building which was built in 1897, he also designed the Workers Institute you can now see that building at The Black Country Living Museum.

Scene 4 – The Closure Of The Round Oak Steel Works.

George chats to a statue of a World War One Soldier who stands on a war memorial near to Chapel Street flats. The soldier was Stan Harley who fought in the Worcestershire Regiment; he survived the war and returned home to his job at the Round Oak Steelworks.

The Round Oak Steel Works stood where you will now find Merry Hill this was a huge factory. When the first factory was built in 1857 it was twice as big as any other steel factory in the country. During World War One and World War Two steel was produced to help the war effort.

Scene 5 – George Is Now a Granddad.

George is a granddad and takes Jayne his granddaughter to the ATC for her first day at college. He finds the building new and exciting because it has interactive boards and plasma screens.

George enjoys seeing the changes to the buildings and the creation of new places for people to learn new skills.

Scene 6 – Building Of The Future.

In the last scene of the play George tries to explain to other people how history is being made every day. He has taken pictures of the new Health And Social Care building because he wants to show how it has been built and to provide information for people in the future. The building has won awards and George is proud to think people are taking notice of new developments in Brierley Hill.

Questionnaire.

Please work with an adult at home to answer these questions about the buildings in Brierley Hill. **Tick the box that you feel best suits your opinion.**

1. Do you think the new buildings fit with the old ones in Brierley Hill?

Very well	Acceptable	Not very well	Don't know/Haven't Noticed

2. Do you use any of the new buildings?

Very often	Sometimes	Not sure	No

3. Does Brierley Hill needs more new buildings and modernisation?

Yes	No

4. Should old buildings in Brierley Hill be modernised, preserved as they are or knocked down/demolished?

Modernised	Preserved as they are.	Demolished and knocked down.

5. What is most important in the design of a new building?

Looks or Appearance	Use of the building.	Quality of building materials.	Environmentally friendly.	Accessible for example wheel chairs/close to public transport.

6. Do local people have any say in the development of buildings in Brierley Hill?

Yes	No	Only certain people	Don't know

7. Would you like to be consulted about the creation of new buildings in the area?

Yes	No	Don't know	It doesn't concern me.

8. Do you consider Brierley Hill to be part of Merry Hill?

Yes	No

Please use the space below to add your thoughts on what you would like to see in Brierley Hill in the future.

Brierley Hill Challenge.

Next time you go to Brierley Hill see if you can find the buildings in the pictures. Do you know the names of the places and objects below?

