

Homes: Past and Present at The MERL!

Compare your home to homes of the past! Look at the pictures below. In your homes, find something that does the same job. Make drawings or notes to show how modern homes are different to those in the past.

1



Solid fuel Aga cooker and water heater (2016/13)

This was acquired from a farmhouse where it had been installed sometime in the 1940s.

2



Bellows (68/511)

These were used for keeping domestic fires alight and increasing their temperature. They are made from wood, leather and brass, and are decorated with a picture of a woman harvesting wheat.

3



Kettle (60/557)

The shape of this copper kettle has been designed to make sure the water boils quickly. It can hold up to 6 pints or 3.4 litres of water.

4



Candlesticks (51/478, 55/791, 56/24)

These candlesticks are made from iron or brass. One includes a snuffer to help extinguish the candle and one has a slide which can be used to raise or lower the candle inside the candlestick.

5



Sugar cutters (59/228, 59/229, 52/47)

These sugar cutters are made from steel. Until sugar cubes were introduced in the 2nd half of the 19th century, sugar was only available in large lumps or cones, these cutters were for cutting of smaller pieces.

6



Oil table lamps (57/406, 57/395)

One of the oil lamps is made completely of glass, the other lamp is made from glass and brass. Both date from the 19th century and are still in working order.

7



Gingerbread mould (53/363, 51/108, 53/364)

These wooden gingerbread moulds were used for decorating gingerbread before it was baked. They have different designs, including animals, people and objects like a cradle and butter churn.