

KEY - SEDGLEY TILED CERAMIC MURAL

1. Andrew Barnett, 1909-89. Founder of Sedgley Local History Society and Museum. Headmaster of Red Hall Junior School. Heritage campaigner for the nine villages of Sedgley Manor.

2. Bust: Dr Isaiah James Baker, 1850-1912. A local family doctor. '1914' refers to the date of the erection of a monument to him in Gorge Road, Hurst Hill. He devoted time and effort to the poor rather than to making money out of the rich. The inscription on the plinth reads: 'Erected by public subscription to the memory of I. J. Baker, L.R.C.S., L.M., of Hurst Hill'.

3. Sheet music: Joseph Nicholds, 1795-1860, Coseley composer. His most famous work, the oratorio Babylon, was first performed in the newly completed Ebenezer Baptist Church, Coseley, in 1857 – however, it was not published until after his death. He was born at The Coppice, Hurst Hill, c.1795, and died in Dudley & Sedgley Union Workhouse, Burton Road, Upper Gornal. A battered memorial slab exists in Vicar Street Memorial Garden.

4. Inscription: Abraham Darby I. The grandfather of the famous bridge builder was born in April 1678 at Wren's Nest, Woodsetton in the Parish of Sedgley, Staffordshire, son of John & Ann Darby. His Coalbrookdale furnace produced pig iron fuelled with coke (rather than charcoal) in 1709. He died in March 1717, at Madeley Court, Shropshire.

5. Inscription refers to John Hall, coffee mill maker of Bilston Street, who used his own home in the 1840s for the first Wesleyan Methodist meetings in Sedgley. The mill was a domestic device for grinding coffee beans.

6. Inscription: 'Dud Dudley 1665'. He was a Dudley-born metallurgist, who fought on the Royalist side in the English Civil War as a soldier, military engineer, and supplier of munitions. His claim to be the first Englishmen to smelt iron ore using coal was made in 1665 when he published Metallum Martis. Abraham Darby I was a descendent of his.



7. Pen Nibs: surrounding the 'Sedgley' title: **Daniel Fellows** and his apprentice **Thomas Sheldon** claim to have invented steel pen nibs (c.1800), and were certainly making them here early in the nineteenth century. Thomas Sheldon was licensee of the original Seven Stars public house (which was sited near Café Cappella). Two of his younger brothers founded the Cannon iron foundry in Deepfields, Coseley.

8. Court House. A former public house as well as the home of Lord Dudley's Manorial Court, or Court Baron, and of the annual Court Leet until 1925. Land ownership and transfers dominated proceedings.

9. All Saints' Church. Now the parish church of Sedgley and Gornal and one-time mother church of Sedgley Manor. Rebuilt (1826-1829) on the site of a place of worship for over 900 years.

10. Nail Warehouse, now used by Cottage Blinds in Brick Street, Sedgley. It was built in the 1830s by Stephen Wilkes. Later a red brick porch was added which was used as a nail-making shop until 1900.

11. The chimney and buildings associated with Baggeridge Colliery. The steel framework of the pit-head gear is depicted. Coal production began in 1912 and ended on Saturday 2nd March 1968.

12. Ruiton Windmill. Depicted in its 1920s state, the Upper Gornal corn grinding mill was built around 1830 by George Richmond, an active member of Ruiton Chapel. Corn was ground until the 1870s or 1880s after which its state of repair deteriorated.

13. Sedgley Beacon Tower. Best described as a folly, the present tower was built in 1846 on land owned by Rev. John Louis Petit, who probably designed and funded the project. Lord John Wrottesley's involvement cannot be substantiated. It stands near the site of one of the chain of beacons prepared to give warning of the threat of invasion from the Spanish Armada in the sixteenth century.

14. DMW Motor Cycle. In Valley Road, Upper Gornal, the Sedgley Motor Cycle Company, better known as Dawson's Motor Works, produced around 15,000 motorbikes and scooters from 1947 to 1978. The works, an old tram garage, was demolished in 2002 and replaced by houses.

15. Steam Tram. From 1886 to around 1901 steam trams ran through the village along High Street, through the Bull Ring and up Dudley Street. A trailer seating about 60 and lit by oil lamps was pulled by a steam locomotive. Later electric trams, then trolleybuses covered the route.

16. Sedgley Urban District Council civic badge. The Beacon Tower is surrounded by an edging of rope and a lock barrel used in safe making. At the base two pen nibs flank the Stafford Knot, symbol for Staffordshire.

17. Central image: Nail Making. Nail factors purchased the rod iron that they then doled out to the local nailers to be forged into finished nails, in their small backyard nail shops. The manufacture involved whole families. In the 1850s the Sedgley area boasted 13 nail warehouses. Sedgley nails frame the mural.

The tiled ceramic mural was designed and made over three years in Sedgley by **William Horton Burgess** and was unveiled on January 9th 1997 by Keith Thompson of Cottage Blinds, The Old Nail Works, Brick Street, Sedgley.

Cottage Blinds hosted Sedgley's Museum from November 1988 until closure in December 2004 and the mural can still be seen on the premises. The project was supported by the Dudley Arts Council, Dudley MBC, Cottage Blinds and Sedgley LHS.

Mr Burgess is a Sedgley born artist and potter. He also made the tiled mural in the entrance hall at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, one transferred to Red Hall Primary School and a series for West Bromwich Building Society. In 2017 he produced a painted mural for the foyer of Dudley's new Travelodge in Tipton Road, Dudley.

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