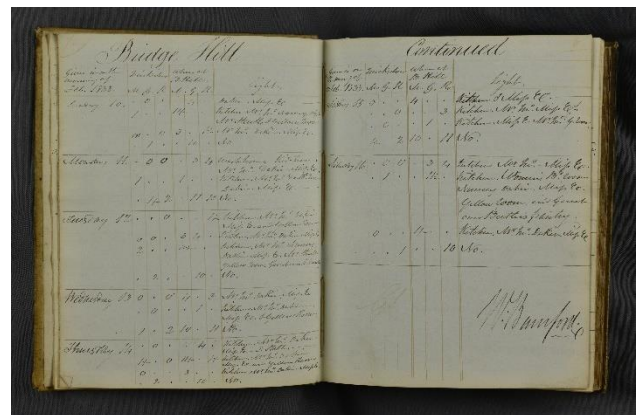
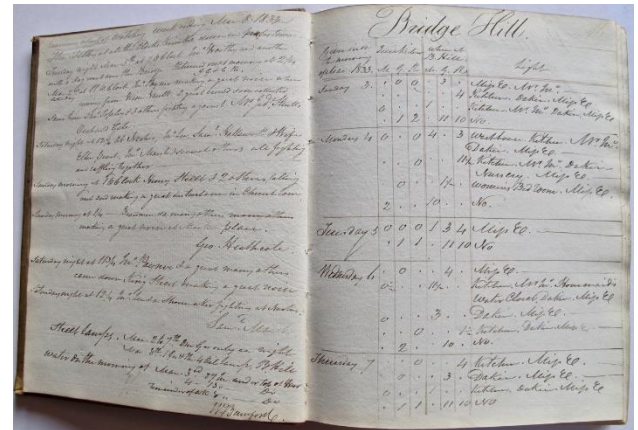
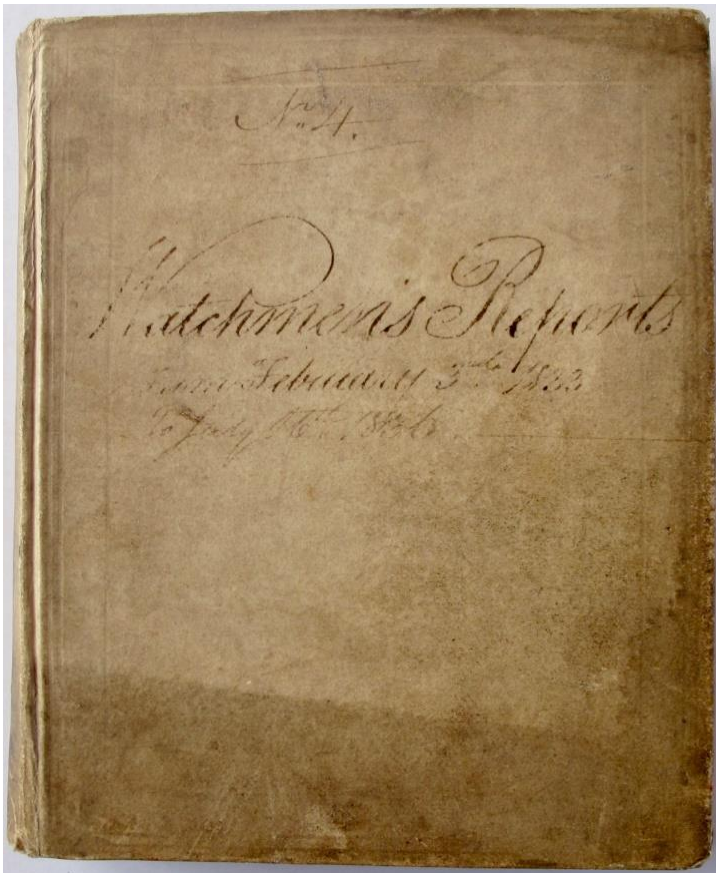


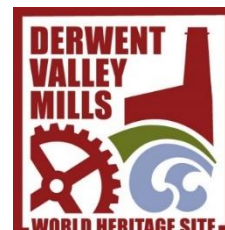
Learning Activities for Key Stage 3 and 4 Teachers Guide

The Watchmen's Reports

February 3rd, 1833 to July 16th, 1836, Belper



**Belper
Historical
Society**



Derbyshire Environmental
Studies Service



LOTTERY FUNDED

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Learning Activities for Key Stage 3 and 4 - Teachers Guide

The Watchmen's Reports

February 3rd, 1833 to July 16th, 1836, Belper

What is the focus of this learning pack?

This pack and teachers guides set out a number of activities for pupils at Key Stage 3 and 4. The activities suggested are interactive ways to explore and construct meaning from a specific primary source: the "The Watchmen's Reports February 3rd 1833 to July 16th 1836" held at [Derbyshire Record Office](#). It might be useful if your pupils are:

- Conducting a local history study
- Learning to use primary sources
- Exploring the impacts on society of Britain as the first industrial nation
- Exploring Crime and Punishment in Britain prior to the introduction of the police force.

What are the Watchmen's Reports?

An ordinance in 1233 required that watchmen should patrol towns and villages overnight. This role evolved for centuries. Eventually it was taken over by the police forces established in the 19th Century.

This particular 'Watchmen's Reports' book relates to Belper, Derbyshire. It covers the period February 3rd 1833 to July 16th 1836. The book was purchased at auction by crowdfunding coordinated by Belper Historical Society and Derbyshire Record Office. The reports cover the duties of the nightwatchmen employed by the Strutt's (the main mill owners of the town) to ensure their property was secured and the people of the town behaved themselves outside of the working day. This shows the huge influence the mill owners had on the whole community.

The history and development of Belper is closely tied to the Strutt family. In 1758 Jedidiah Strutt obtained patents for the Derby Rib attachment. This was used in conjunction with Lee's Frame Work Knitting Machine and produced ribbed hosiery by machine. He partnered with his younger brother William Strutt, brother in law William Woollatt and wealthy Nottingham hosiery manufacturer Samuel Need and began a very successful hosiery business in Derby. This helped him amass a considerable fortune by the time the Derby Rib patent expired in 1773. Jedidiah used this fortune and, alongside Samuel Need, funded Richard Arkwright to establish his first water powered cotton spinning mill at Cromford in 1771.

The mills at Cromford were a great success and Jedidiah began his own spinning operations in Belper. First at the South Mill, operational by 1778 and then the North Mill, operating by 1786. More mills were added over the next three decades along with housing for workers in both Belper and Milford.

The mills along the Derwent Valley are credited as the birthplace of the factory system and are now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list – The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS).

W G & J Strutt Ltd was established by the sons of Jedidiah Strutt (1726-1797). In the 1820s, W G & J Strutt Ltd established a group of night watchmen. There was a system devised by William Strutt to ensure diligence amongst the watchmen walking separate rounds from 11pm to 5am. Most watchmen called the hour. In Belper they were instructed to proceed silently and use their lanterns “on urgent occasions” only. The routes and timings of the watchmen were changed periodically to make it harder to predict their arrival so they were able to detect bad behaviour (Article of 1835 published in The Mirror of Literature, Amusement, and Instruction, Volumes 25-26 J. Limbird 1835).

What information is included in the report book?

The Watchmen’s Report provides brief notes covering the security of property and the behaviour of the people of the town. The night watchmen were responsible for:

- Gas lighting: Checking and extinguishing the still relatively new, at the time, gas street lights. This included reporting issues, if the gas was poor or if the glass on a lamp was broken.
- Daily water level reading: This involved checking the water levels in the River Derwent which powered the mills. Water levels at the weir were important as they helped to maximise the output at the mill and also helped to control any flooding that might damage the mill machinery.
- Crime and Disorder: This involved keeping the peace in town and ending any misbehaviour taking place. This mainly relates to petty crime, drunkenness, fighting and poaching. It is a valuable record of misbehaviour in a growing mill town.

The watchmen reported to the head clerk of the counting house at the West Mill, William Bamford who extracted their daily reports into the weekly reports in this book and signed off each week’s information.

Where can I access the transcript or a video about the Watchmen’s Report?

The Watchmen’s Book itself is kept by Derbyshire Record Office as part of its Strutt archive. It is difficult to read so a transcript (by DRO and Heather Eaton) is available to download here <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/teaching-resources/the-night-watchmens-reports/>

A talk about The Watchmen’s Book by Adrian Farmer – local historian, DVMWHS Heritage Coordinator and Vice-Chair of the Belper Historical Society is available here: <https://youtu.be/7Gg5z8Xq0Wg> Thanks to all the above for the research, information and sources used in this teaching pack.

Activities overview in this pack

| | Page |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Analysing Documents: Pupils will learn to critically appraise a primary source (The Watchmen's Report). What are its strengths and weaknesses? What can we deduce from this source? | 5 |
| 2. Creative Crime and Disorder: Using some of the 'stories' of crime and disorder in the Watchmen's reports pupils will be able to create a cartoon storyboard or piece of drama piece based on the accounts. | 11 |
| 3 Mapping Crime and Punishment: Pupils will learn how to combine historical and modern maps with information from the Watchmen's Reports to assemble a creative, annotated map highlighting the crime and disorder 'hotspots'. | 18 |

Activity 1: Analysing Documents

Activity Aims:

- To understand what a primary source is
- To develop analytical, deductive and reasoning skills and apply them to a specific primary source (The Watchmen's Reports)
- To use the information from the source and other research to draw conclusions, construct meaning and prompt further research.

Resources:

- Images of the Watchmen's Reports
- Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports transcript
- Analysing the Nightwatchman's Report worksheet – 1 per pupil (worksheet adapted from)
- Teacher's Background Information

Instructions:

- **What is a primary source?** Ask the pupils if they can provide an explanation or definition of what a primary source is (you could expand to how this is different to secondary sources). Ask for some examples of primary sources they can think of.

Definition: Primary Source: Documents: Printed or written material relied upon to communicate, record or prove something. Examples include diaries, letters, certificates of birth, death, marriage, deeds, contracts, laws, court records, census records, wills, medical records, passports, military enlistment etc.

- Give copies of the "Images of the Watchmen's Reports" and "Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports Transcript" and allow time to look, read and discuss in pairs.
- Give each pupil a copy of the "Analysing the Watchmen's Report Worksheet" and pupils fill in their answers.
- Extend by allowing pupils to carry out additional research to supplement the knowledge they can derive so far. This might be
 - Finding out more about the role of Watchmen
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watchman_\(law_enforcement\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watchman_(law_enforcement))
 - Using the full transcript of the Watchmen's reports to find the names of the watchmen or people listed and look them up in the census to find out more about them: <https://www.freecen.org.uk/> or using www.ancestry.co.uk if you have an account.
 - Find out more about Belper in this time period 1833 to 1836 to put the Watchmen's Report into context. What were the major industries? Can they find a map from this period? This website might help and has a video on how to use the portal <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record-office/records/historic-maps/historic-maps.aspx>
 - What is 'knocking down' and 'pulling the clock'? (see extract below)

The activities and approach of this session are adapted from resources at:

<https://historyexplorer.si.edu/sites/default/files/PrimarySources.pdf>

Teacher's Background Information

The role of the Watchman

'Knocking down' the clocks

Belper in this period.

From an article of 1835, published in *The Mirror of Literature, Amusement, and Instruction*, Volumes 25-26 (J. Limbird, 1835),

This article gives a detailed description of the system devised by William Strutt to ensure diligence among the watchmen employed by the company. The article states that the system had been emulated in Derby, and credits it with halving the number of watchmen required in that town, from twenty to ten. The men walked separate rounds from 11pm to 5am. Rather than carrying out the traditional watchman's function of calling the hour, they were instructed to proceed silently and use their lanterns "on urgent occasions" only.

In addition, the men's routes and timings were periodically changed, with a combined effect of making it harder to predict the arrival of the watchman, who should therefore be better placed to detect bad behaviour. The article continues (describing the system in Derby, modelled on Belper's): "in order to compel each watchman to go the route that is fixed for him at the times appointed, watch-clocks are provided at certain stations. These clocks effect their object by means of certain pegs, each of which is required to be put down by a bolt within a quarter of an hour of the time fixed upon; and unless so put down, it remains up, and in the morning registers every quarter of an hour of neglected time. The clocks are examined by a steady, responsible man every morning, and the results noted down in a book under the same number and route of each watchman. If any one of them has omitted putting down a single peg, the superintendent copies the time and number of each omission in a book, which lies at the house where every clock is fixed, to enable the occupier of the house to examine if the superintendent enters those pegs right, which are missed, and into another book in which he copies all omissions and remarks. These omissions are explained by the watchman to the superintendent every morning at five o'clock, and if he gives an account of his having taken up disorderly persons, of having watched suspicious ones, or having been otherwise properly occupied ... the omissions are allowed".

Inside the front flyleaf of the Watchmen's reports it mentions there are 21 clocks in total, which needed 'knocking down' at appropriate times of the night to show the nightwatchmen were carrying out their rounds. Locations included several around the mill itself, Green Hall (referred to as market Street Lane East), Bridge Hill (presumably Bridge Hill House and grounds) and 'Quarter Round' including the school at Long Row.

Belper in 1833:

King William the Fourth is on the throne – it's three years yet until the Victorian age begins. Victoria was still a princess, and had visited Belper the previous November, for a tour of the mills. The Prime Minister is Charles Grey, the 2nd Earl Grey, after whom the tea was named. The previous year his Whig Government had passed through Parliament the Great Reform

Act, which was much celebrated in Belper, as Derbyshire went from 4 MPs to 12. Jedediah Strutt II was particularly pleased and provided a great celebration in the town. 1833 saw the Slavery Abolition Act receiving Royal Assent, abolishing slavery in most of the British Empire, but establishing a £20 million fund to compensate enslavers. They also passed the Factory Act in 1833, making it illegal to employ children less than 9 years old in factories and limiting child workers of 9 to 13 years of age to a maximum of 9 hours a day.

Belper had no railway running through the middle in the deep cutting. George Benson Strutt, son of the first Jedediah, still lives at Bridge Hill House. There's no carriageway on the meadows, leading to a private bridge up to the house. The Market Place was a grassy, muddy area, hardly changed from when it was the village green. There's no Christ Church, and St Peter's Church is just 11 years old.

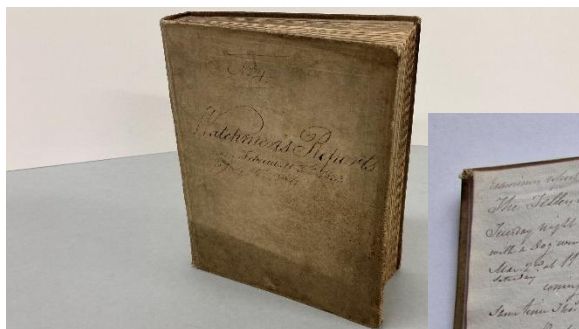
Images of the Watchmen's Reports

Water on the morning of
 Sunday Jan'y 27. Driven off to repair Gates.
 Monday " 28 - 4 hicks under top of weir
 Tuesday " 29
 Wednesday " 30
 Thursday " 31 } 8 " — Da
 Friday Feb. 1
 Saturday " 2

W. Sampson

Watchmen's Reports
 from February 3rd 1833
 to July 16th 1833

Watchmen's Reports
 from February 3rd 1833
 to July 16th 1833



Bridge Hill.

| Given in or the morning of the 1833. | Dr | Cr | Dr | Cr | Light |
|--|----|----|----|-----|---------------------------------|
| Sunday 3. | 0 | 0 | 3 | | Miss Eo. Mr. W. |
| | | | 14 | | Kitchen. Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 0 | 1 | | | Kitchen. Mr. W. Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 1 | 2 | 11 | 10 | No. |
| Monday 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | Washroom. Kitchen. Mr. W. |
| | | 0 | | | Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | | | 14 | | Kitchen. Mr. W. Baker. |
| | 0 | | | | Nursery. Miss Eo. |
| | 2 | | 10 | | Woman's Bed Room. Miss Eo. |
| Tuesday 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 4 | Miss Eo. |
| | 1 | 1 | 11 | 10 | No. |
| Wednesday 6 | 0 | | 4 | | Miss Eo. |
| | 0 | | 14 | | Kitchen. Mr. W. Housemaid's |
| | | | | | Water Closet. Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 0 | | 3 | | Kitchen. Miss Eo. |
| | | 0 | | 12 | Kitchen. Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 2 | | 10 | | No. |
| Thursday 7 | 0 | | 4 | | Kitchen. Miss Eo. |
| | 0 | | 3 | | Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 0 | | 1 | | Kitchen. Baker. Miss Eo. |
| | 1 | 1 | 11 | 10 | No. |

Watchmen's Reports
 from February 3rd 1833
 to July 16th 1833

W. Sampson

Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports Transcript

[118b page 232]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Jan^y 17 1835.

The Tellers at all the Clocks Knocked down in proper time except Jan^y 11 & 12. Clock Magistrates Office none down, Out of Order, Monday night Jan^y 12 at 12½ James Mather, Will^m Bakewell, Jn^o Lee (sweep.) Jn^o Colclough, Jn^o Pickford, Leonard Coates & 4 others making a disturbance at the Door of Jn^o Milward when turning out to go home there wo^d no doubt have been some fighting had I not come up just at the time & prevented it by threatening to take some of them to the Lock up. Geo. Gratian.

Street Lamps.

2 Gas only all week, Mill Gate & Breakfast place.

Water on the morning of

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | Jan ^y | 11 | Drawn off to grease. |
| Monday | " | 12 | |
| Tuesday | " | 13 | 4 Inches under each morning |
| Wednesday | " | 14 |) |
| Thursday | " | 15 |) JS. |
| Friday | " | 16 |)8 " Do |
| Saturday | " | 17 |) |

On Friday Jan^y 16th the Mills lost 7 hours by high water. Stopped at 11 O'Clock.

W. Bamford

[009a page 15]

Examiners report of Watching week ending March 8. 1833.

The Tellers at all the Clocks Knocked down in proper time Tuesday night Mar. 5th at 7 O'Clock Jn^o Worthy & another with a Dog went over the Bridge. Returned next morning at 2¼ G.G. & C.R.

Mar. 2nd Saturday at 11 O'Clock Jn^o Poyner making a great noise when coming from Wine Vault. A great crowd soon collected.

Same time Tho^s Topley & 3 others fighting against M^r Jed^h Strutt's Orchard Gate.

Saturday night at 12¼ at Nashes, Jn^o Lee, Sam^l Hallsworth & Wife Ellen Peach, Jn^o Marsh & several others all fighting and raffling together.

Sunday morning at 1 O'Clock Henry Street & 2 others falling out and making a great disturbance in Church Lane,

Sunday Morning at ¼. Beardmore & a many others ~~many others~~ making a great noise at Market Place.

Geo. Heathcote.

Saturday night at 11¼ Jn^o Payner & a great many others came down King Street making a great noise

Saturday night at 12¼ Jn^o Lee & a Shoemaker fighting at Nashes Sam^l Marsh

Street Lamps. Mar. 2 to 7th. One Gas only each night.
Mar. 8th. 1 Gas & the 4 Oil Lamp, B.Hill

Water on the morning at Mar. 3rd 27 Inches under top of Weir
" 4 13 " Do
JS. Remainder of wk 8 " Do
W. Bamford.

[38ab page 73 & 74]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Aug^t 24th 1833.

The Tellers at all the Clocks Knocked down in proper time Oct 17th. Saturday night at 11¼ Jn^o Bridges, Jn^o Lee, James Sandars and Jos^h Allsop came out of Turners and began to Kick up a great rout.

At 12 O'Clock Jn^o Bridges abusing the Watchman Gratian when pulling the Clock at School.

Saturday morning Aug^t 24th at 5½ James Sandars and with a Dog came over the Bridge. Had either a hair [sic] or a rabbit in his coat pocket, the feet just peeping out. J.S.

Street Lamps.

Oct 17. 18. 19. 20 the whole of Gas lighted. Oct 21. 7 lighted
" 22 4 lighted Oct. 23rd - 3 lighted.

Water on the morning of Aug^t.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 18 th | 20 Inches under top of Weir. |
| Monday | 19 | 3 " over Do |
| Tuesday | " 20 | 5 " " Do |
| Wednesday | " 21 | 3 " " Do |
| Thursday | " 22 | 6 " " Do |
| Friday | " 23 | 4 " under top of Weir |
| Saturday | " 24 | 3 " Do |

The West Mill has worked this week

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|------------------------------------|----|----|
| Saturday | 17 | from 5 ½ in morning to 6½ at night | D | H |
| Monday | " 19 | " 1 Do 6½ Do | 1" | 0 |
| Tuesday | " 20 | " 5 Do 6½ Do | 1" | 4½ |
| Wednesday | " 21 | " 5½ Do 7 Do | 1" | 0½ |
| Thursday | " 22 | " 5½ Do 6½ Do | 1" | 0 |
| Friday | " 23 | " 5½ Do 6½ Do | 1" | 0½ |

[50b page 98]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Nov 2 1833.

The Tellers at all the Clocks Knocked down in proper time.

Monday Oct 30 at 10¼ Peter Gamble & Geo Brown making a great noise against Berkin's Court.

Thursday Oct 31 Jn^o Hawley (James) and Tho^s Terry Jun^r making a disturbance at Belper Bridge - stripped to fight. Geo. Gratian.

Saturday Oct. 27th at 11. Matthew Shepperd & Tho^s Ball making a great noise as they went by the Mills.

Friday morning Jos^h Wheatcroft & Sam^l Hunt (Abraham) fighting at Market Place from 1 to 2¼. Also several others.

Nov. 2nd at 12¼ in morning Henry Bryan & Will^m Watson making a disturbance at Jn^o Milwards. Josh^a Storer.

Sunday morning Oct 27th at 12¼ Tho^s Froggatt (Isaac.) and 4 others came over the Bridge supposed to have been out poaching. C. Robotham.

Wednesday Oct 30th at 11 Jn^o Bridges and another Man who works at Jn^o Harrisons (Joiner) making a great noise in Market Street Lane. Bridges stripped to fight.

Lamps. Oct 26 to 30. Only 2 Gas each night.
Oct 31 5 Gas Nov 1st all lights burned well.

Analysing the Watchmen's Report - Worksheet

Use the images of the source document and the extracts of text from the transcript to answer as many of the questions as you can. Use the evidence from the document, what you see and your own knowledge.

First impressions:

What are your first impressions? _____

What kind of document is it? _____

More detail:

Read some of the text: Jot down any unusual words or phrases or look up their meaning:

What is the date of the document? _____

Is there a location provided for the document? _____

Who wrote or created the document? How do you know? _____

Who was the document written or created for? How do you know? _____

What is the purpose of the document? What makes you think this? _____

Higher level deductions and conclusions:

What do you think the writer thought was the most important information to include? Why? _____

Does the document imply anything without stating it directly? _____

Can you tell the point of view of the writer? Is it objective? _____

What is the relationship between the writer and the audience? How can you tell? _____

Activity 2: Creative Crime and Disorder

Activity Aims:

- Explore the events recorded in the Watchmen's Reports to either create a cartoon, storyboard or a short piece of drama.
- To use information from the source and other research to construct meaning and bring the source to life creatively.

Resources:

- "The Nightwatchmen" information sheet
- "Mill workers and Belper in the 1800s" information sheet
- Crime and Disorder Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports

Instructions:

- Ensure the pupils have an understanding of what the Watchmen's Reports are and what they recorded. Ensure they have an understanding of Belper in the 1830s to provide context (possibly use Activity 1).
- As well as recording the water levels to ensure the waterwheels and the cotton spinning mills could remain operational, checking on the relatively new gas lighting in the town (amongst the first in the world!) the Watchmen reported on crime and disorder in the community taking action to control it. Each town had a 'lock up' (small scale cell or jail) for those disturbing the peace. There was also the possibility of being fined or denied work in the mills. In a time period before police forces this gives us a real insight into life in a growing mill town. The Crime and Disorder mainly involved
 - Drunkenness
 - Poaching
 - Fighting
- Share with the pupils the images and information on 'The Nightwatchmen' information sheet and the images and 'Mill workers and Belper in the 1800s' information sheet to provide information about what the people and place may have looked like. Invite the pupils to interrogate these sources asking questions like – What do they wear? What jobs might they have done? What were their homes like? What would life have been like? Allow time for their own additional background research if required.
- Split the pupils into small groups (around 4-6 pupils). Share the 'Short Crime and Disorder Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports' sheet. Pupil's should read through and decide which of the stories they are drawn to or interested in. Discuss what might have happened before and after the scene described and recorded. They will try and incorporate the scene and their 'imagined' stories into a cartoon/storyboard or drama.

For creating a cartoon or storyboard:

- Look online at some examples of cartoon strips or film storyboards. How do they split the action? What devices do they use? E.g. speech bubbles, captions, action, scenes, backgrounds etc.
- General tips once you decide on your story to tell:
 - 1) Make a view or shot list. What angle or view will you take? What does this reveal about the character or story? Roughly list or sketch out your shot or image list.
 - 2) Sketch it out: It's fine to use basic figures or stick characters but will be more impactful, attractive and interesting if you take some time over the appearance. You could consider using software apps to drag and drop backgrounds, characters and text but make sure it is appropriate for the era. Try out: <https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator>
 - 3) Fill in the details. Each frame needs to include the most important elements of the scene or story. A film storyboard would eventually be converted into moving images so you can indicate movement with arrows. Remember to include any props.
 - 4) Add words: At the bottom of the image they provide context and story or you can use speech bubbles, thought clouds or action noises.
- Allow the pupils to view each other's storyboards/cartoons. What does it tell you about life in the 1800s in Belper? What were the most common crimes? What was the most common types of disorder? How does that compare to today? Who would deal with such issues today?

For Drama:

Once the pupils have had chance to decide which of the 'stories' from the Nightwatchmen they are going to recreate. As a group do a number of drama 'warm' up exercises to get the pupils moving, acting and thinking. You could try:

The 'Walk about': Whole group to walk around, don't leave any empty spaces. Each time someone moves they must move to 'fill the gap'. Freeze periodically to check. Encourages observation and co-operation and makes sure everyone is 'involved' from the outset in a simple exercise.

'Yes Lets': Leader shouts out "Let's all....." and then everyone replies "Yes, let's all....." and then 'does it'. For example "Let's all hop on one leg" – everyone else shouts "Yes let's all hop on one leg" and then does it. This can develop into very simple 'acting' or 'mime' – "Let's all brush our teeth", "Let's all wash the dishes" on common activities and gradually develop to use more imagination and take contributions from the students themselves as they build in confidence. Lead gradually into actions linked to the extracts e.g. "Let's all poach a rabbit" or "Let's all wave our truncheon" etc.

To develop the scene they have chosen.

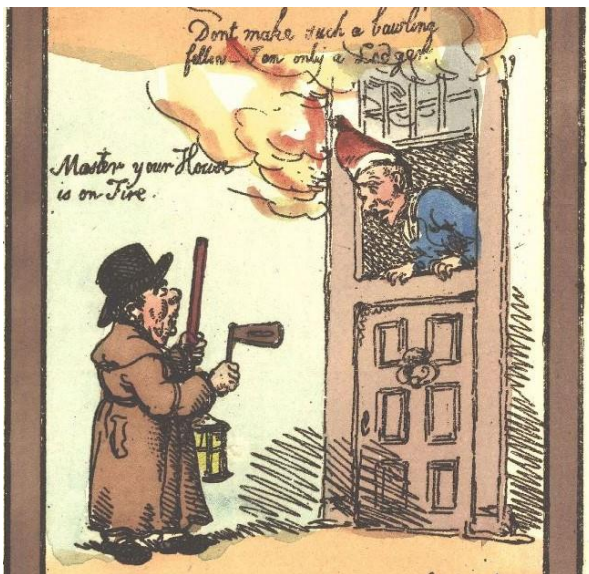
- Working in groups of around 4 to 6 pupils encourage them to 'Freeze Frame' part of the Nightwatchmen Story they have chosen. This entails setting up a group as if for a photograph. The pupils can discuss roles, situation, expression, action etc. and at the required point are asked to hold their Freeze Frame for 5 seconds. Suggested 'frames' which should give an idea of what happened.

- Move this forwards with 'Shoulder tapping' – A logical progression from freeze framing, the leader simply taps an individual character whilst 'frozen in role'. They then verbalise who their character is and what they might be thinking or doing at that moment in time. This can start develop an 'improvisation' (see below) which a lot of pupils find quite hard.
- When a series of 'freeze frames' have been developed to show different parts of the story the actors can get into each 'freeze frame' and a 'slide show narrator' can talk through what is happening to provide links between each captured 'scene' to create a 'human slide show of the events.
- Once 'still scenes' have been established the pupils can develop their 'improvisation' techniques developing dialogue. They can use inspiration or examples from their Nightwatchmen source or things they can invent. What happened **before** the incident to lead up to it? What happened **afterwards**?
- If the pupils have time they can begin 'script writing' with dialogue and directions for their short play scene and perform them to each other.
- Allow the pupils to perform their pieces to each other: Provide feedback and evaluate their work. What does it tell you about life in the 1800s in Belper? What were the most common crimes? What was the most common types of disorder? How does that compare to today? Who would deal with such issues today?

The Nightwatchmen

When working in the mills discipline was maintained for the people of Belper by overseers and a system of fines. Outside working hours the mill owners (the Strutts) employed the watchman and there was a possibility of being detained, fined or denied work in the mills which would have a huge impact on families. This was before the introduction of police forces so the Nightwatchmen Reports give a really interesting insight into what was happening in a growing mill town. The Nightwatchmen had a number of different roles:

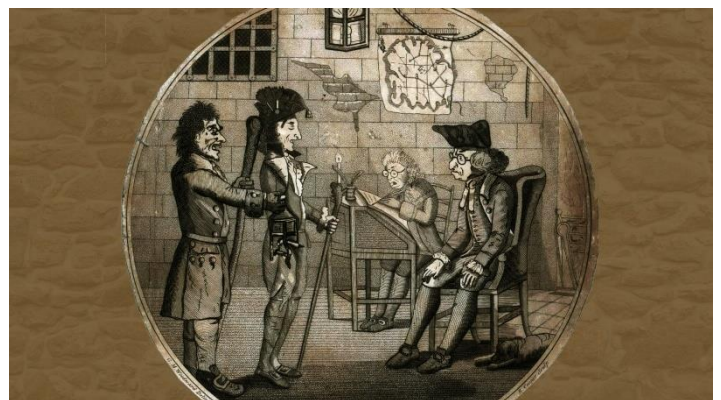
- Recording the water levels at the weirs and the River Derwent to ensure the waterwheels and the cotton spinning mills could remain operational
- Checking on the relatively new (at the time) gas lighting in the town. It was amongst the first in the world to have gas lighting!
- The Watchmen also reported on crime and disorder in the community taking action to control it. Each town had a 'lock up' (a small scale cell or jail) for those disturbing the peace. In extreme cases convicts would be transported to Australia for crimes committed. The Crime and Disorder mainly involved:
 - Drunkenness
 - Poaching
 - Fighting



The Nightwatchmen were given constables staffs (truncheons) costing 1s 7d (around £6-£7) today. They had snippets (handcuffs) at £10 3s 4d each (around £700 today!) and in 1828 were given a caped great coat costing 28s 5 (around £100 in today's money).

Images clockwise from top left:

- A cartoon featuring a Nightwatchman.
- A Nightwatchman's truncheon.
- Standing before the magistrate in the 'lock up'.
- Transportation for convicts.



Mill workers and Belper in the 1800s

The mill owners controlled much of life in the communities. Forfeits had to be paid for inappropriate behaviour, including the incidents recorded below, between 1805 and 1813. The hours worked in the mills were six before dinner, which was taken between 12 and 1, and six after dinner with time allowed within each six hour period for breakfast and tea. The Strutts were quite clear the basic day that had been inherited from the Derby Silk Mill where “this has been the invariable practice... for more than 100 years”. http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/History_Communities_TheStruttCommunity.pdf

Being off drinking
Off at Derby Races without leave
Stealing packthread
Stealing yarn the property of Messrs. Strutts'
Breaking a Drawing Frame
Breaking a pair of scales
Stopping four frames at once
Leaving her machine dirty
Counting hanks wrong
Idleness and looking throu' windows
Calling through some window to some soldiers
Making noises in Counting House
Making T Ride's nose bleed on the hanks
For putting Josh Haynes' dog in a bucket of Hot water
Rubbing their faces with blood and going about the town to frighten people
Terrifying S Pearson with her ugly face



Above: Illustrations of poachers (illegally trapping, hunting or fishing on land owned by someone else).

Below and left: Images from:

<https://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk/collections/our-favourite-things/1896-workers-photographs/>



These photographs of mill workers were taken in 1896 (63 years after the Nightwatchmen's Reports Book records). They would have been wearing their 'best clothes' especially for this rare occasion of being photographed but it gives an idea of how the Mill Workers might have looked around this time.



Short Crime and Disorder Extracts from the Watchmen's Reports

EXTRACT 1: [38ab page 73 & 74]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Aug^t 24th 1833.

"Saturday morning Aug^t 24th at 5½ James Sandars and with a Dog came over the Bridge. Had either a hair [sic] or a rabbit in his coat pocket, the feet just peeping out. J.S."

EXTRACT 2: [54a page 105]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Nov 23 1833.

"Sunday night Nov. 17 at 11 Jn^o Bridges (Tho^s) Will^m Bridges (son of of Will^m Bridges Joiner) a Soldier who is down on furlough Joseph Harrison from Derby (Grandson to Old Joe) and Jn^o Banks Jun^r making a noise under M^r Jed^h Strutts Window. The Watchman "Gratian" came up and stood to hear what was going on, without ever speaking; when Jn^o Bridges stepped up to him & D—^d his E.....^s ~~said~~ and asked him what he was doing there and told him to march on - Gratian said he was about his business & w^d go when he thought proper. Bridges after using a many more foul expressions struck him and Gratian then made use of his stick about Bridges shoulders - Soldier Bridges had hold of the stick & wrested it from Gratian & threw it away, they all three then came down together & when got up again Harrison struck him & also Soldier Bridges - Gratian requested Banks to assist him in taking Jn^o Bridges to Lock up but he refused used very abusive language but never struck him."

EXTRACT 3: [60a page 117]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Jan 4 1834.

"Saturday night Dec 28th at 12 O'Clock met Jos^h Gregory coming from Turners with some ale in a Jug. We stood talking and Immanuel Holmes came running and run against Gregory & Knocked him down, whereby most of the Ale was spilled. On Gregory getting up again Jn^o Hutchinson stepped up to us and said to me "Will you take that up" I told him I had nothing to do with it. He then began using very abusive language and said I had no business there and that he cared neither for me nor my Employer. JS. Geo. Heathcote."

EXTRACT 4: [95b & 96a]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Sep 6 1834.

"Sunday morning Aug^t 31st ...Same morning at 3. Herbert Spencer, Sam^l Wood Job Jackson & Jn^o Flint Jun^r had been stealing apples from Mrs Toplises of the Holly Seat Shottle. Spencer was seized & found to have about 2 Pecks of Pears in a Bag – was locked up and took before the Magistrates when he was sentenced to 3 Mo^s Imprisonment."

EXTRACT 5: [108ab Pages 211 & 212.]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Nov 22. 1834.

"Thursday night Nov. 20th at 10 Will^m Lander and another went over the Bridge and returned next morning at 2½ Lander appeared to have something Bulky under his arm and when they came to corner of Lomas' Garden they set off running up Cromford Road when I and Robotham with our Dogs followed in pursuit but on coming against Jn^o Masons the Dogs began fighting and we were obliged to stop which gave them the opportunity of getting clear off. On our coming back Robotham picked up 2 arrows supposed to have been dropped by them. Geo. Gratian."

EXTRACT 6: [126b & 127a pages 248 & 249]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Mar 14 1835.

March 7 Saturday night at 12 a disturbance in Berkin's Court at the House of Jacob Smith (Ginger.) who had Jn^o Perry's Daughter secreted for the purpose of going off to Manchester with Elizth Buckly & Elizabeth Taylor. Smith denied her being there and wo^d not open the door and I went to fetch some assistance and in the interim he let her out and she ran into Henry Lilley's House when her brother followed her and took her home. Part of her Clothes was gotten from Smiths that night & part the next morning but it is said that a Shawl and some other articles are still missing."

EXTRACT 7: [159ab page 313 & 314]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Oct 3 1835.

"Sunday morning Sep 27th at 3½ James Porter from Smalley drunk and making a great disturbance at Watch house. I took him to the Lock up and next morning before M^r G.H.S. who fined him 2/6 but he having only 6^d in his pocket he left a shirt for the 2/-, which was bro^t soon after and the Shirt given up. Jos^a Storer."

EXTRACT 8: [171ab pages 335 & 336]

Examiners report of Watching week ending Dec 12 1835.

Saturday night Dec 5th ... Same night at 11. Benjⁿ Fletcher from Openwood Gate drunk and got over a high Wall out of Jos^h Watsons Back Yard and went into Mr Longdens Kitchen and seated himself by the fire, there being no person in. The family hearing a noise supposed some one was braking into the house and they ran to fetch a Constable when they met with me & I went & found him in the Kitchen very drunk and turned him out. Sam^l Taylor"

Activity 3: Mapping Crime and Punishment

Activity Aims:

- To understand how Belper grew as a town through the development of the mills and associated housing and communities.
- To recognise that the town layout, features and many place names remain the same since the 1800s when the Nightwatchmen's Reports was written.
- To develop historical and geographical mapping skills to highlight and map events that were recorded in the Nightwatchmen's Reports onto a historic map.

Resources:

- Map: Belper C1791 Burdett Map Cropped Section (1 between 2 and project onto a screen)
- Map: Belper 1st edition 1875 – 1882 OS (1 per pupil – A3 if possible)
- Map: Belper Modern OS with numbers OS (1 per pupil – A3 if possible)
- Belper: Key to the modern map numbers
- Possible – access to Census and Trade Directories if desired and available
- Post it notes and pencils

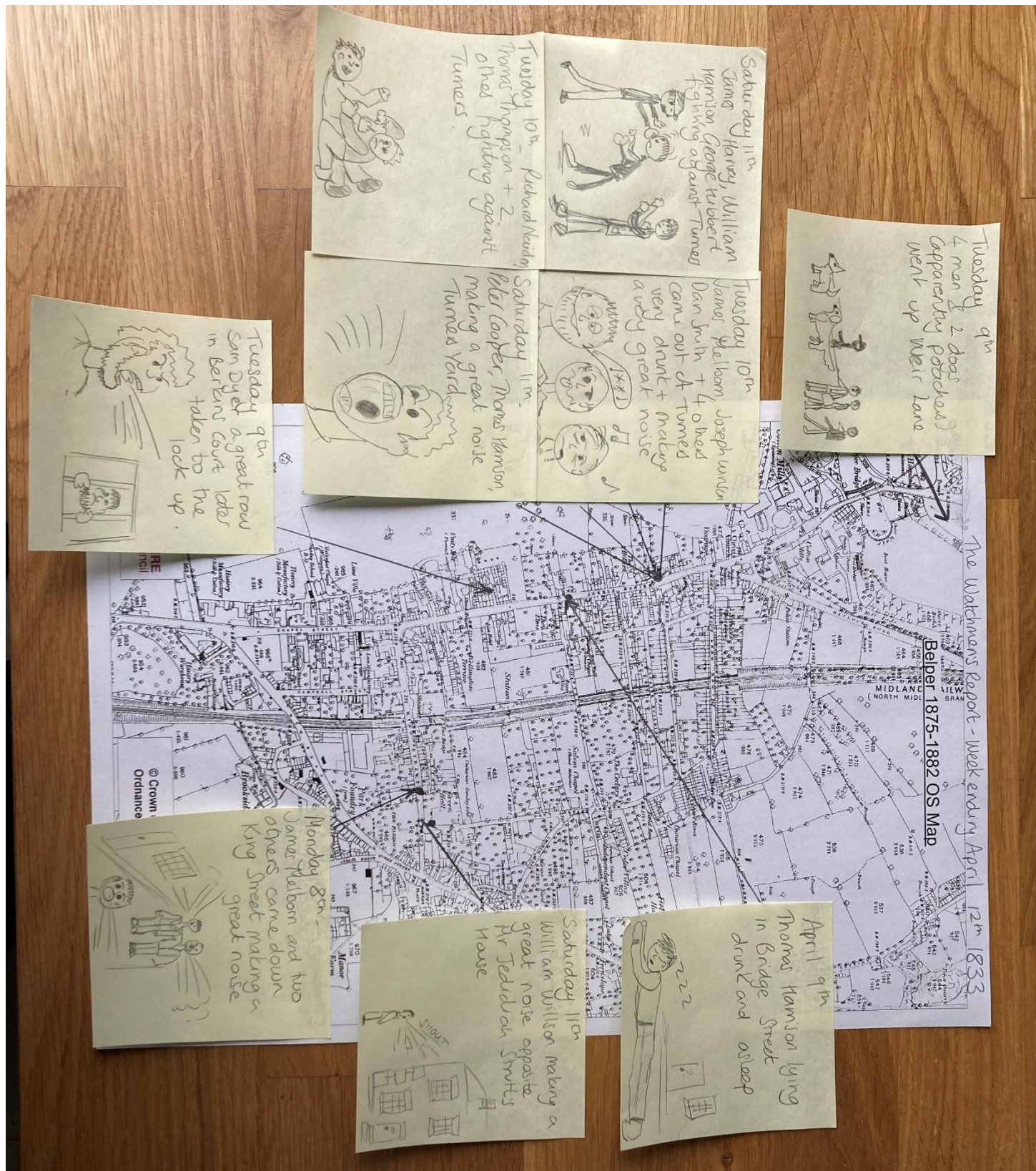
Instructions:

- **Belper – Changes through time:** Issue the first map “Belper C1791 Burdett Map” as a paper copy and project onto a board showing Belper before the Mills were built by the Strutt's. What can the pupils see or decipher? What would the area have been like? (Very rural, farmland, some woodland, River Derwent running through the middle, Belper a very small hamlet with very few buildings).
- Give out the second map “Belper 1st edition 1875 - 1882” and project onto a board – *(The jpg. versions available to download are much clearer and easier to print large and 'zoom in' on digitally than the examples provided in this pack over the page).* This map is around 40 years after the Watchmen's Reports book but gives an idea of what Belper was like at the time. Key things to pick out:
 - North west corner of the map the River Derwent, the weir and water controls measured in the Watchmen's Reports.
 - The Bridge over the River Derwent would have been where poachers would have crossed the river to go onto the lands on the other side, largely at this time owned by the Duke of Devonshire to poach rabbits, hares etc.
 - You can see the Belper Mills cotton spinning complex to the East and West of Bridgefoot which is where many of the town residents would have worked at this time.
 - Belper River Gardens is labelled as 'Osier beds' at this time (willows grown for basket weaving).
 - It is possible to pick out a number of 'Hotels' and P.H for public houses across the town and a large number of chapels, churches etc.
 - The Midland Railway Line runs north - south through the map and the station in the centre of town.

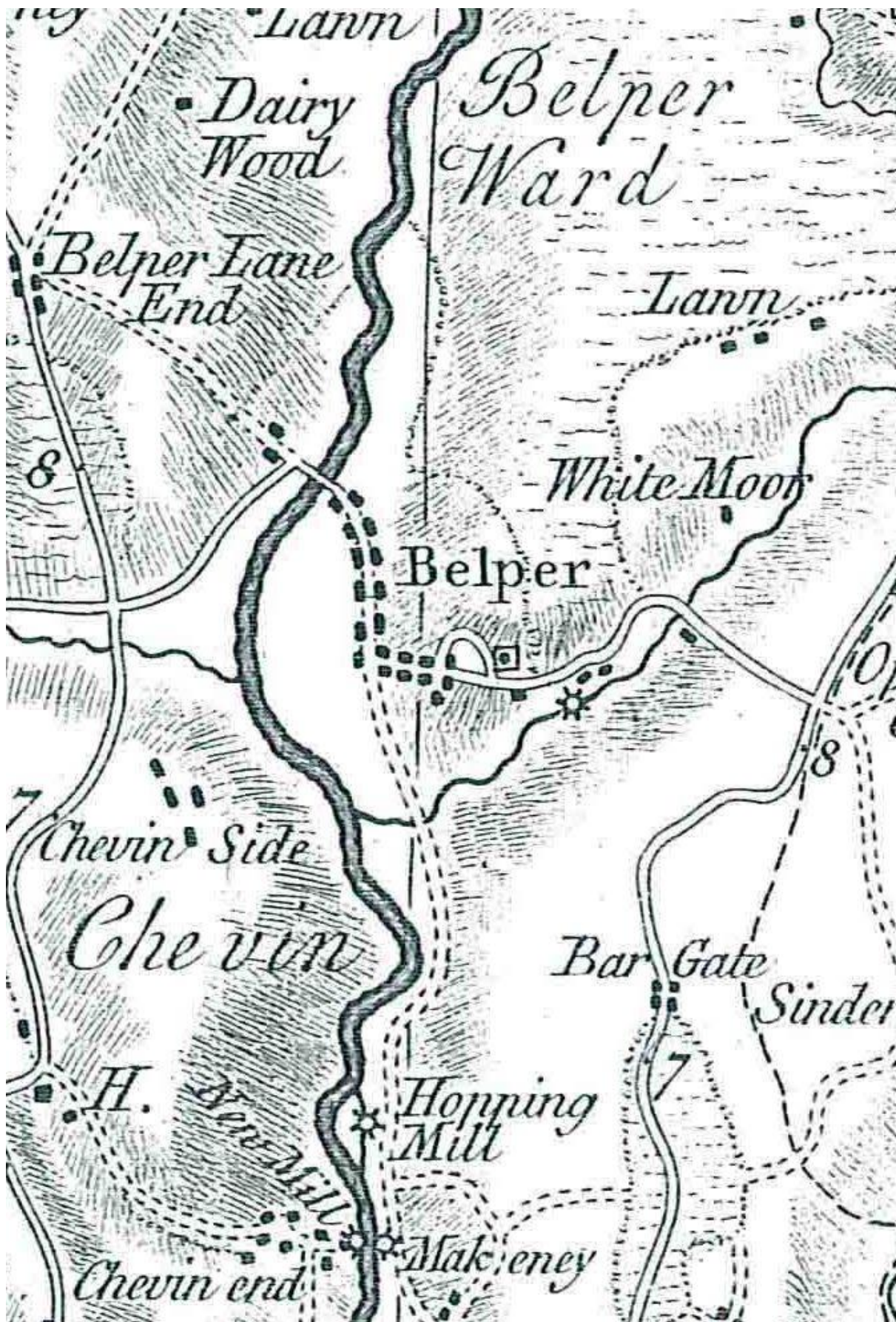
- The purpose built mill workers housing terraces and cluster houses can be seen clearly on Long Row and the 'Cluster Buildings'.
- King Street and the Market Place can be seen and the park (behind 'The Coppice') is at this time Manor Farm.
- Give out the third map "Belper Modern OS with Numbers". Cross reference between the two maps. It's clear that much of the old road layout remains - trace and match some of the road routes and names and the railway line. Many of the buildings and key features remain; locate the mills and market place on each map. Pick out some other key features that remain. The main changes are an 'in-filling' with buildings of areas that were previously orchards, allotments, fields or gardens. Over time some of the street, pub and shop names change - the 'Key to the modern map numbers' has been provided to help with this by providing current and past names for buildings and streets commonly mentioned in the Watchmen's Reports.
- Allow the pupils to choose a week or two weeks from the Watchmen's Report Transcript (available to download from <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/teaching-resources/the-night-watchmens-reports/>) If you prefer you could select a few weeks for the pupils to focus on.
- Explain they will be mapping what the Watchmen Recorded and getting an idea for crime and disorder across the town. First label their old map with the week/s that have been chosen to record. Then take post it notes and draw a quick sketches and sentences about each of the events that happened during that week. Stick these onto the map and draw an arrow to where the incidents happened; use the modern map and 'key to the modern map numbers' to help locate places (example on next page).
- Discussion: Pupils to present and view each other's maps. Where are the crime and disorder 'hot spots'? What does this tell us about the town at this time? Why were the Watchmen dealing with these incidents? Who would have dealt with them in later years? When was a more formal police force introduced? Why?

NB: In 1839 the Rural Constabulary Act allowed county areas to establish police forces if they chose to at a local level. Derbyshire Constabulary was formed in March 1857 with the strength of 156 men. At this time there were eight divisions: Ashbourne, Bakewell, Belper, Chesterfield, Derby, Glossop, Melbourne and Matlock.

Example of annotated map of events from the Watchmen's Reports
Week ending April 12th 1833



Belper Map C1791 Burdett Map Cropped Section





Belper – Key to the modern map numbers

| Map number | Name of the place/location/street in modern times | Names known by in the past (likely to be mentioned in the Watchmen's Reports) |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | River Derwent and the Weirs | River Derwent and the Weirs |
| 2 | Belper Mills | Belper Mills |
| 3 | Long Row | Long Row |
| 4 | Short Row | Short Row |
| 5 | Field Row | Field Row |
| 6 | Cluster Road | The Clusters or Cluster Buildings |
| 7 | George and Dragon | Turners, George Inn |
| 8 | The Lion Hotel | Red Lion Inn |
| 9 | Chevin View | Berkin's Court |
| 10 | Railway Hotel | Railway Inn, Nash's, Tiger Inn |
| 11 | King Street | King Street |
| 12 | Boots Chemist | Rose and Crown, Alldread's |
| 13 | Market Place | Market Place |
| 14 | Number 28 Assembly Rooms | Angel Inn |
| 15 | White Swan | Upper Swan |
| 16 | Corner of King Street/Green Lane | Green Hall, belonging to Jedediah Strutt |
| 17 | Spencer Road/High Street | Commonside |
| 18 | Queen's Head and the Thorn Tree | Field Head |
| 19 | Green Lane | Market Street Lane |
| 20 | Church Lane | Church Lane |
| 21 | Bridgefoot | Bridge (crossing would lead to Bridge Hill House the Strutt's home) |
| 22 | Cheapside | Cheapside |
| 23 | Field Lane | Field Lane |
| 24 | Brookside | Brookside |