

**Ages 8-12 years**

Flax and Barley, the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings cats, are on a mission to learn about the building they live in.

Can you help Flax and Barley find answers to their questions?

Make sure you look out for the pictures of the cats in the exhibition - they will guide you in the right direction.



Charles Bage designed this mill for industrialist John Marshall. Bage also had connections with other influential people, such as the father of a very famous local figure (known for his theory of evolution).

**Who was this local figure?**



The industrial revolution brought about major changes in industry across the country.

**After 1780 what engines became popularly used to power machines?**

Our cats haven't always just been curious to learn, in the days when this building was a maltings they served a very important purpose, helping to protect the grain.

**How did they do this?**

The Shrewsbury Flaxmill was the first building in the world with a cast iron frame.

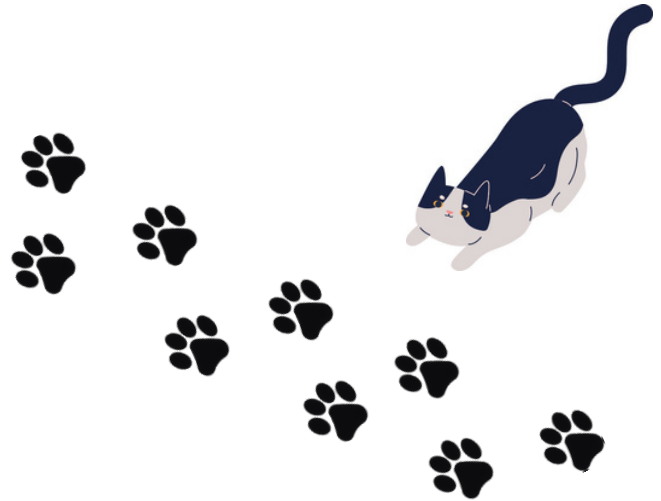
**Why was this innovation so important to the Mill owners?**



All around you there are examples of the new inventions of the 1700s, and in day to day life we are surrounded by hundreds of inventions which have been made since.

**What invention makes your life easier today?**

**What could you invent to make your life even better?**



Find the 'Great Bricks.'  
'Great Bricks' were used to try to minimise the impact of the tax imposed by the government when the mill was being built.

**During the restoration of the Mill, how many 'Great Bricks' were produced?**



Go to the 'Workshop of Ideas.'

**Can you design and build your own factory?  
What will it produce and what design features will it include?**

Sometimes, to learn about the past we have to literally get our hands dirty and look inside what remains.

**When the Historic England team came to restore the Flaxmill Maltings what surprising material did they find in the walls, considering it was known as the first fireproof building?**

- a) polystyrene
- b) coal
- c) wood

