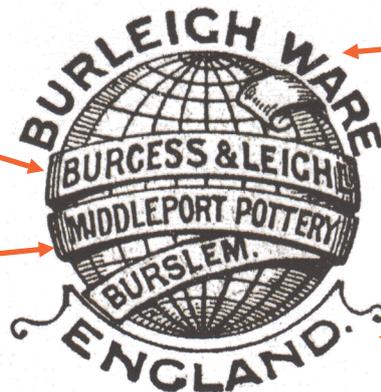


# Backstamps

Backstamps are marks usually found on the base of a ceramic item and identify the manufacturer of an item. The mark can be printed or pressed into ware and can also give you information about the pattern, shape and sometimes even date the item was made. As well as being informative, backstamps are often also decorative.

This is the name of the manufacturing company

This is the name of the pottery and its location



This is the brand name of the ware

The globe design is decorative and symbolises the world-wide reach of the company

This shows that the ware is made in England

Below are some examples of Burleigh backstamps:



The beehive design was used by Burgess and Leigh in their early years. This one was used between 1868 and 1878. *Antique* is the name used for the shape of the ware



This backstamp is less decorative and makes a feature of the company initials. It was used from 1910 with some slight changes. From 1999-2010, the initials B, D & L were used, reflecting company ownership



Modern examples of backstamps used on Burleigh ware today. The decoration reflects the patterns which are named in the stamp. The backstamps are matched to the colour of the pattern on the ware. Burleigh's *Calico* pattern celebrated its 50th year in 2018.



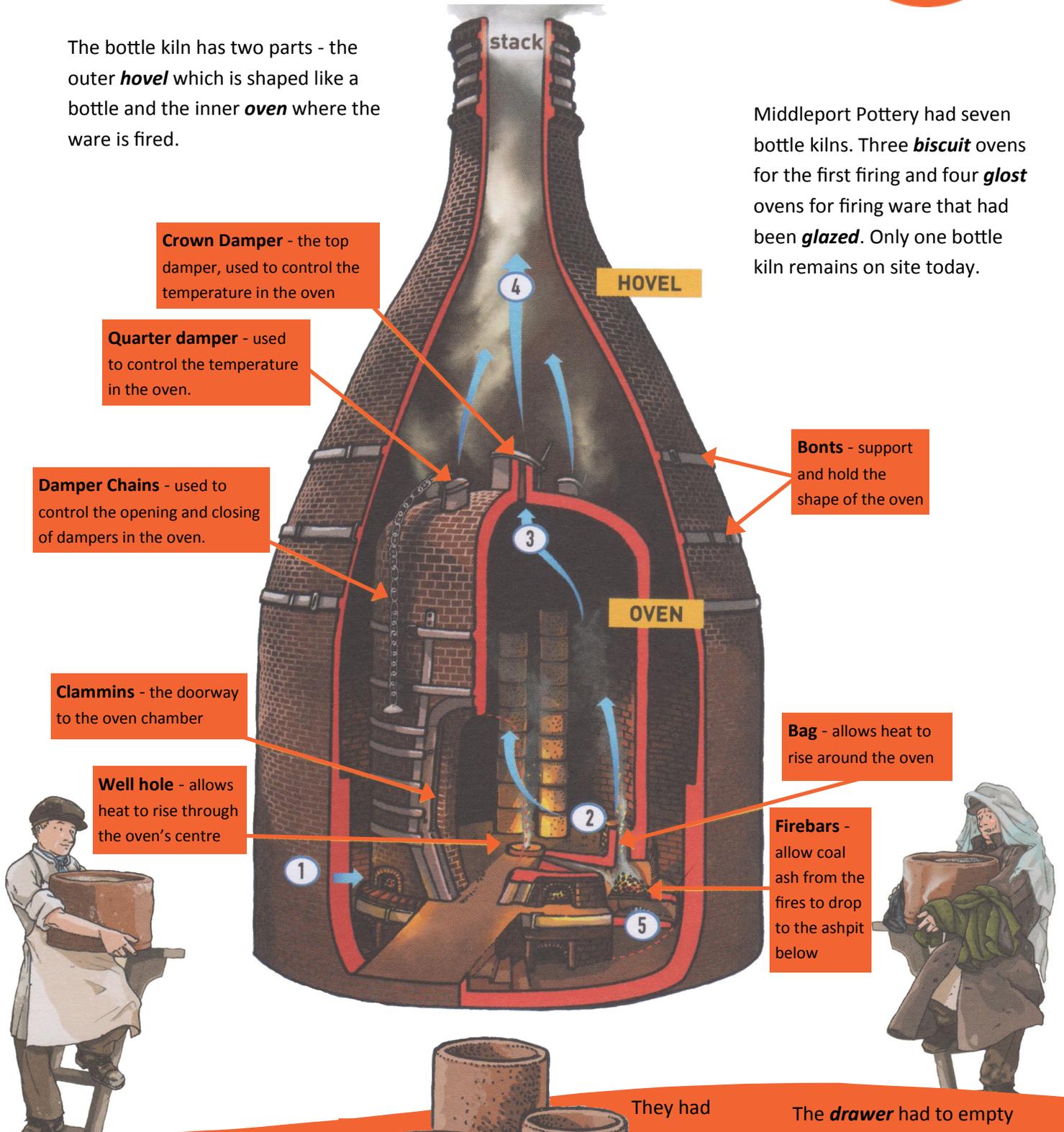
## Did you know?

Most ceramic items made today still have backstamps - see how many different backstamps you can find around your home. See if you can find out more about one of them.

# Bottle Kilns

The bottle kiln has two parts - the outer **hovel** which is shaped like a bottle and the inner **oven** where the ware is fired.

Middleport Pottery had seven bottle kilns. Three **biscuit** ovens for the first firing and four **glost** ovens for firing ware that had been **glazed**. Only one bottle kiln remains on site today.



**Crown Damper** - the top damper, used to control the temperature in the oven

**Quarter damper** - used to control the temperature in the oven.

**Damper Chains** - used to control the opening and closing of dampers in the oven.

**Clammins** - the doorway to the oven chamber

**Well hole** - allows heat to rise through the oven's centre

**Bonts** - support and hold the shape of the oven

**Bag** - allows heat to rise around the oven

**Firebars** - allow coal ash from the fires to drop to the ashpit below

The **placer** would stack the **saggars** full of **ware** in stacks called **bungs** inside the oven. The **cod placer** would know where to place each saggars in the oven to get the best results.

There were different kinds of saggars to hold the different ware.

They had names such as:

- skimmer
- cheese
- pint
- square
- banjo
- hiller
- oval

The **drawer** had to empty **saggars** full of **ware** from the oven, often while it was still red hot. They would wear many layers and soak themselves in water to protect themselves from the heat of the saggars.

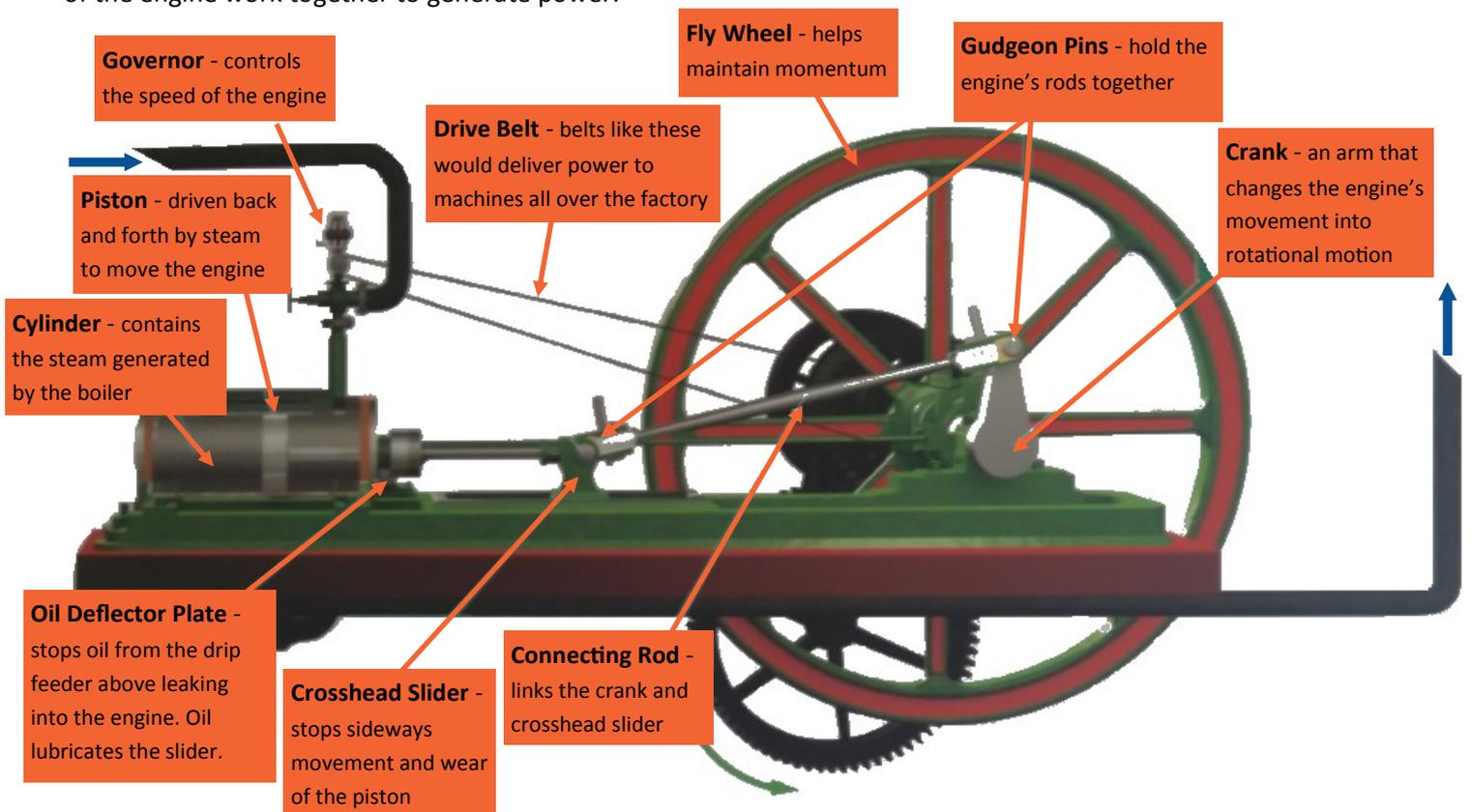
# Steam Power

Middleport Pottery's steam engine was built in 1888 by pottery machinery manufacturer William Boulton. She is original to the factory which was built around her. In 2017, she was named *Duchess* by HRH Prince Charles.



Before electricity was used on the factory at Middleport Pottery, steam was used to generate power. Steam was made by using coal to heat a large Lancaster boiler which fed steam to the engine. Now it can be run using an electric motor as well as under steam, thanks to renovation and installation of a new boiler in 2016.

The diagram below shows how the different parts of the engine work together to generate power:



## Key Words

Steam                      Friction                      Generate

Momentum                      Lubricate                      Rotational

Boiler

Do you know what these words mean? Can you use them in a sentence?

# THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

