

# JOSEPH BRAMAH

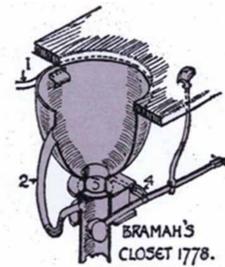


## ALL SAINTS CHURCH SILKSTONE

Joseph Bramah was born at Stainborough Lane Farm and baptised in Silkstone church on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748.

*After a short education, probably at Silkstone (Old) Town School off High Street, he started work on his father's farm. However, after suffering a serious injury to his leg in an athletics competition at Bolton on Dearne feast, he was unable to work on the farm and trained to become a cabinetmaker.*

Bramah walked to London and found work there which included making cabinetry to surround an early type of flush toilet. He realised that he could improve the design of the mechanism itself, and his invention was patented in 1778. At some stage he changed his name to 'Bramah' thinking it more appealing to London society.



In 1784, after attending a talk at the Royal Society on the design of locks, Bramah again produced a new design. He offered 200 guineas to anyone who could pick the lock made to the new design. It took 67 years for someone to claim the money, but it had taken 3 days to do it! The principles of Bramah's lock are still in use today.

To make the locks Bramah and Henry Maudslay invented machine tools (specially made tools to cut the parts). They also created a production line, the first ever.

In 1785, he patented seals which could hold pressure within the moving parts of a machine. They enabled him to make the first hydraulic machinery including pumps, a rotary engine and the Bramah Fire Pump or Engine made for the Earl of Strafford of Wentworth Castle, and now exhibited in Experience Barnsley.

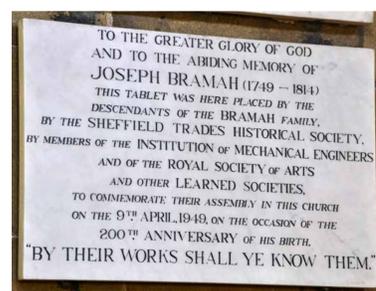


This technology also led him to develop a hydraulic printing press. Patented in 1796, a Bramah printing press is exhibited in Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield.

It was used by the Ordnance Survey to print maps, and was still in working order in the 1960s, more than a hundred years after it was made. It is possible that the original of the map showing the school Bramah attended, was printed on this machine in 1851.

The two plaques on the south wall are possibly the only memorials to this prolific inventor, whose ingenuity changed our lives and the course of engineering throughout the world.

*The Bramah Gallery is named for this incredible man. Why not use it to explore heritage information about the area and its people.*



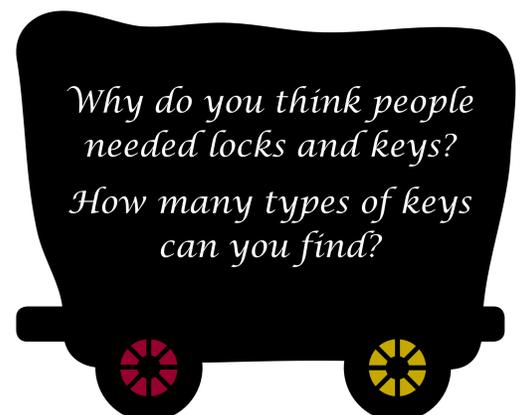
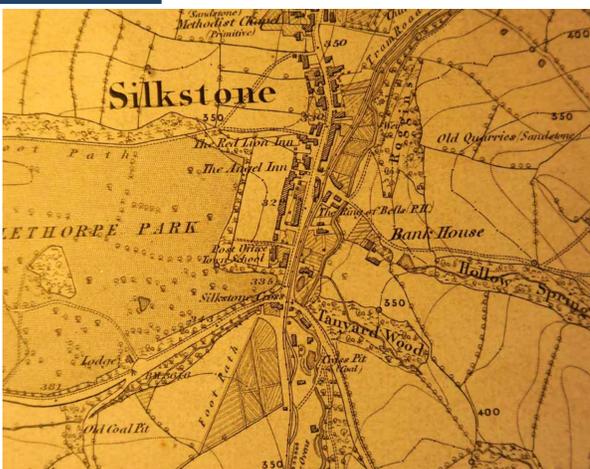
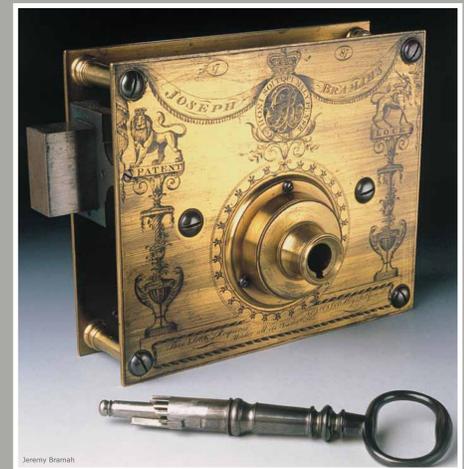
### It's a Bramah!

This was a common saying in days gone by, and means something made to very high quality.

It came from the name of Joseph Bramah, an excellent engineer and inventor who came from Stainborough.

This lock, on display at Bramah UK (London), is inscribed, 'This lock requires 419,001,605 keys to open it under all its variations.'

Some lock!



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