

PLUMBS RESTORATION

This really is a sorry saga I'm afraid. After the euphoria of obtaining the Lottery funding work started. We hit problems straight away in that the timbers were not capable of salvage. 150 years of exposure to the elements had done its worst and as our builder put it to me 'they crumbled in his hands'. We could not have known how bad it was until work started and it was also clear, and as to be expected, that the building had been patched up over the last 150 years several times with sub standard materials.

Anyway the upshot of all of this was that we had to obtain retrospective consent for the part demolition of the building because it is in a conservation area and planning permission for its reconstruction. Inevitably work had to stop whilst all this was being dealt with.

Fortunately the contractor was able to salvage some of the materials such as window and door frames, guttering and pipes and the Council now having granted the permissions we will be on the move again.

DIARY DATES

All events will be held at Wesley Hall, Elm Road Methodist Church at 8 p.m. There is a small entrance fee of 50p for members and £1 for non members to help cover the cost of the hall.

- 15 March – A Magic Lantern Show – Rev John Robinson
- 19 Tandoori Parlour – Indian Meal
- 26 April – AGM – talk to be arranged
- 17 May – History of Shoebury Garrison – Tony Hill
- 11 October – The Salvation Army Colony – Derek Barber
- 15 November – Southend Pier – Peggy Dowie

STRIKE UP THE BAND

To celebrate Trafalgar Day on 21 October the Southend Band accompanied by 2 superb ladies' choirs gave us a real rip roaring concert at the Clifftown URC in Nelson Street (where else). Our thanks go to David Hurrell, band member and compere par excellence, who suggested the event and in co-ordination with our own Ann Price organised the ticket sales, part of the proceeds of which were for the benefit of our Society.

Those performing were the Southend Band, Musical Director Andrew Hurrell; The Claire Singers and Southend Young Singers (Conductor Clara Roberts accompanist Dorothy West). Compere David Hurrell.

Well done to all concerned – a great evening.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs for the coming year are now due - £5 for individual members and £8 per couple. Subscriptions should be paid by the AGM on 26 April. Unfortunately subscriptions not paid by that date will mean that membership lapses and you will no longer receive Leighway. We hope you agree that in this day and age the subscriptions are reasonable and you are of course helping to maintain the Society and all the work it does. We look forward to seeing you all at the programmed events and thank you for your support in the coming year. There is sometimes some confusion over the period your subs cover. Subs paid now are for 2006 January to December.

BARNADO'S GIRLS?

As an update to the article in the last edition regarding the Barnado's Home in Barking, member Jean Hamilton remembers that when at a pupil at the Westcliff High School for Girls they regularly held Toy Shows in early November and the girls knitted baby garments and toys which were sent to the Barnado's home at Barkingside.

Keith Charnock also has little doubt that a lot of the girls were baptised using water from the baptismal font which now stands in Wesley Methodist Church. The Barkingside village included a church and the font from that church was transferred to Wesley in 1969.

ANOTHER FISHING LEIGH

New Zealand's first marine reserve — where sea life is fully protected — was established in 1975 near the township of Leigh north of Auckland. In less than ten years, a virtual marine desert decimated by overfishing became a rich ecological area, teeming with fish and other sea life, free from exploitation.

Spanning from Cape Rodney to Okakari Point, the reserve includes the waters around Goat Island and is also known as Goat Island or Leigh marine reserve.

The University of Auckland's marine laboratory is based at the reserve.

Beneath the waves is a variety of habitats, from rocky shores exposed at low tide, to deep reefs, underwater cliffs, canyons and sandflats. Each habitat harbours its own creatures from seaweed forests in the pulsating light zone, to deeper waters where clinging animals like sea squirts, anemones, sponges and shellfish are found. In deeper water are small fragile animals



such as gorgonian fans, lace corals and sponges - some of these are hundreds of years old.

Located 21km north-east of Warkworth, the small town of Leigh overlooks a scenic harbour dotted with fishing boats. The town is known for its popular Sawmill Café, housed in a converted sawmill, and has a reputation for its delicious fish and chips.

There must be something about Leigh and fish.

HMS NEVER BUDGE

New Bawley in Leigh

January 1931 saw the building of the first Bawley built in Leigh for thirty five years, when the last one was launched from Bundock's yard. The new Bawley was to be built by A.T. Parsons and Sons. This impressive craft built of Oregon pine and English oak would be thirty five feet long, twelve feet wide and fitted with motor auxiliary gear. She was commissioned for Messrs Myall of Southend to work out of Leigh and to be used for whitebaiting.

The main problem for Mr Parsons was how to get the boat down to the Strand. Part of the workshop wall would have to be removed, then the craft would have to be towed out and taken on rollers to the water, where the mast and engine would be fitted. The name of the new Bawley was a closely guarded secret and 'wait and see' was written on her side.

The beginning of April saw all the people of Leigh assembled in the Old Town. Flags and bunting fluttered the whole length of the High Street, right up to Bell Warf. Dignitaries arrived in force to see the launching. The new Bawley, decked with flags and bunting was the first ever to be fitted with a diesel engine with compressed air starter. The Mayor of Southend stood holding the champagne which was tied to the bows with strands of ribbon. The crowds waited, the band played, the Bawley refused to move. Time was passing. The tide was fast receding. The boat remained motionless. Eventually ropes were called for and willing volunteers pulled her forward. Unfortunately one of the ropes broke and the volunteers toppled over like a dominoes, one after the other. After forty-five minutes the boat at last 'kissed the water.' The Mayor broke the bottle of champagne on her bows, named her 'Enterprise,' and asked God to bless all her crew and the work they do. The Enterprise was finally launched.

At that time the Leigh fleet consisted of twenty five shrimpers and white baiters and twelve cocklers.

Mavis Sipple



Leigh bawley

FAMILY SEARCH

Ted Wiltshire is looking for any information on his grandfather, Henry Charles Wiltshire, who owned Leigh Timber Company in London Road in the 20s and 30s.

Ted believes there still may be family connections in the town and would like to make contact. If you have any information Ted's e-mail is ted@wiltshire.freemove.co.uk. If you are not on e-mail write to Carole at the Heritage Centre and she will pass it on. Please make sure you check with any contacts first to make sure they are happy to pass on their details to Ted.

DES RES IN LEIGH

As someone trying to move from Chelmsford to Leigh I was interested in this advertisement for the charms of Leigh in an early 20th Century 'Complimentary Brochure of Leigh-on-Sea – the garden town on the Thames Estuary' The article is entitled 'Important Points for Prospective Residents'

Annual mean temperature: 52.3 degrees – fair

Rainfall: For the past twelve years the average local rainfall has been only 20.49 inches.

Sunshine: With a daily average of approximately 4 ½ hours of bright sunshine Southend's annual returns figure high amongst the meteorological stations in Britain. The sun shelters on the cliffs are filled with vita-glass, and artificial sunlight is available for sun-bathing treatment.

Railway facilities: LMS route to Fenchurch Street, Broad Street or St Pancras; LNE (Southend) to Liverpool Street.

Shortest rail route; 33 ¼ mile to Fenchurch Street

Fares: Leigh and Fenchurch Street – 1st – 11/6; 3rd – 7/- return.

Day returns, 1st – 5/3, 3rd – 3/6. Period returns (available for return anytime) 1st – 7/3, 3rd – 4/9.

Season ticket rates; One week – 1st - £1.10s.9d; 3rd – 19/6. Two weeks – 1st - £2.13s.4d; 3rd - £1.12s.10d; One month – 1st £3.11s.3d, 3rd - £2.3s.9d. Three months – 1st - £9.13s.9d, 3rd - £5.18s.9d.

Rates; 10/5 in the £. Water: 10% on gross rateable value. Gas: 4/2 per 1000cubic feet. Electricity: Lighting 5d per unit, heating 1 1/4d per unit; and other rates available upon application. Altitude: 110 feet. Early closing day: Wednesday.

Chief Post Office – Rectory Grove.

The annual season ticket now is over £3000!!!

DOLLY'S SHOP



Does the name Eileen Taylor mean anything to you. This delightful doll's shop belongs to member, Jan Sutcliffe. It is supposed to date from the 20s. Jan has been told that it was found on Leigh tip, and then given to someone in payment of a debt, and having passed through other hands, was bought by Jan in May last year. Jane would very much like to know if anyone has any information on the shop itself or on Eileen Taylor if she existed. Any news on it would be most welcome by Jan who can be contacted at jasu@laurac.freemove.co.uk or through the Heritage Centre

As an aside to Jan's requests, shops (the real ones) are part of our social history so if any members have fond memories of either working in local shops or people who worked in them, or oddities that they sold we would love to hear from them.

COMMON PLACE

Most of you will have, at some time, visited Two Tree Island, be it for the wildlife, a bit of peace and quiet or just to dump the rubbish. The eastern part of the Island and the adjoining saltmarsh and mudflats are part of Leigh National Nature Reserve. The western side of the Island is common land with walks attracting bird watchers and nature lovers.

Common land is a well used phrase but what exactly does it mean? This short piece will hopefully inform readers about this important concept in our heritage and about changes to the law which will affect such land.

At the time of the Norman Conquest all land vested in the Crown and William governed the country through a system of manors (this is how the Domesday book is organized) which consisted of the lord's demesne (manor house and cultivable land which the lord held himself) and land held by tenants in either free or unfree tenure. The remainder was 'waste of the manor'.

Waste of the manor comprised land over which (in part or in whole) the tenants could exercise rights of common for instance to pasture cattle, for the taking of timber and wood (estovers), to dig turf (turbary) or peat, to fish (piscary) and to put swine in woodlands to forage (pannage).

It is the leftovers of these ancient wastes which today comprise our 'common land'

During the 19th century Improvement and Inclosure had reduced the areas of common land. Improvement was where the lord of the manor took into his demesne part of the common land leaving just sufficient to meet the needs of his tenants and others with rights. Inclosure enclosed the land and divided it up between the lord and commoners (guess who got the lion's share)! By 1876 this was getting out of hand and an Act had to be passed to make sure inclosure only took place where there was a benefit to the neighbourhood.

As a result of the efforts of the open spaces movement over many years various acts of parliament granted rights and restricted building on the land.

In 1958 a Royal Commission was appointed to look into the question of common land and recommended that a statutory register of common land should be created (this is held by the Borough Council and is one of the registers searched when you buy a property), the register describes the land, who the owner is and what rights there are over the land. The Commission also recommended the creation of public rights of access over all commons and their management.

The Commons Registration Act of 1964 created the statutory register, but it took another 36 years for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to make provision for access and now the Commons Act 2005 makes provision for its regulation and management. The wheels of legislation move exceeding slow sometimes.

The 2005 Act is important as it provides for the management of commons by establishing commons associations so commoners can regulate themselves through majority decision making. But perhaps the most important change is the rendering unlawful of the carrying out of restricted works (for instance fencing and building) without consent of the Secretary of State. Anyone who contravenes this new provision can be brought before the county court by any eligible person (which includes any person with a right of access).

If the owner of the land is not known the local authority is authorized to protect the land and there are also restrictions on agricultural practices.

You've Had Your Chips

When I was a youngster I lived far away
From the seaside, so once a year, just for the day
We'd get on a steam train this problem to fix
A return to Southend it was seven and six
I'd get all excited when the stations I'd see
With exotic place names like Benfleet and Leigh
Then clutching my spade and with great anticipation
I'd step off the train at Southend's rail station
There was loads of us kids with my poor old mother
A spade in one hand, Rossi's held in the other
And we prayed as we got to the hill by the pier
The Tide would be in not out like last year
Now when we arrived at the beach on that day
There was an amusement at which we did play
We dug a big hole and although he first cried
Me brother, young Dennis, we tossed 'im inside
You could tell by the way Dennis acted demented
That with his situation he was not best contented
So we filled up the hole with sand round about
Til all you could see was 'is 'ead sticking out
Now Dennis was hungry or so we all thought
So one of those lollipops we went and bought
'Is mouth was wide open so in it was popped
And at a stroke all of ' is crying was stopped
Now up 'til that time no sea could be spied
But as we turned round, well in came the tide
So round Dennis's head a moat we did build
And as each wave it entered, that moat it was filled
Now mother was partial to bingo you know
So to the amusements we were all forced to go
And to keep us all quiet she gave us some pennies
For the slot machines there - we forgot about Dennis
We got back to the beach and looked over the wall
But we couldn't see our sandcastle at all
And as for young Dennis he wasn't there either
Just the tide coming in and the waves getting higher
So we went off to Offord's after all we were famished
It wasn't our fault that young Dennis had vanished
And with rock eel and chips we sat down outside
But just as we dug in mother leapt up and cried
"Why is that policeman coming ? Oh God!
And who's that poor creature all covered in mud ?"
"It's Dennis" she cried as his small hand she grips
"And we were all thinking, you'd just had your chips"

Tony Prior @ June 2005

NO NEWS IS OLD NEWS

This cartoon appeared in the Southend and Westcliff Graphic of 29 March 1912 with the following caption –

IN THE STILLY NIGHT – During discussions at the meeting of the Leigh Council concerning the sliding cliffs a member said that Councillors were sometimes engaged upon Council work so late as 1 o'clock in the morning.



TWO BROTHERS ONE FAITH

Geoffrey and Tom Parrinder

Recent articles in Leighway have brought back memories of 2 brothers, who individually, although not born in Leigh, had a profound effect on both the world at large and Leigh in particular.

The brothers Parrinder were born in New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and brought up in a liberal and tolerant religious atmosphere. Their father, from a practising Wesleyan Methodist family, worked for glove firms in the City of London, and eventually set up his own business. In 1919, the family moved to Leigh.



Tom

The elder brother, Tom, was born in 1908 and Keith Charnock has written the following piece celebrating a life of service to the local young community -

'First and foremost, Tom was a man of Christian principles who dedicated his life to the youth and the Scouting movement. If we talk about people being giants in the community, then he was one of these. Living in Leigh since early childhood he was very proud to be associated with it. He also had an outstanding personality, which could radiate enthusiasm and encouragement, together with a zest for life and travel.

Tom became a fully accredited local Methodist preacher in 1943 and continued preaching most Sundays until a few weeks before he died. A former Church Trustee, who, over the course of many years, gave outstanding service to the Methodist Church, Wesley Methodist Sunday School, Youth Club and many other Church activities.

In the wider community he was well known for his scouting activities. He first joined the 2nd Leigh Scouts as a boy at Wesley. and went on to become Scoutmaster in 1929, and in later years Group Leader. With his zest for travel, in 1936 he took the scouts 'Camping in Jersey', something quite unique in those early days of scouting. For 25 years, he served as District Commissioner for South East Essex. Year after year, Tom would take the Southend renewal of Promise Ceremony for 2 – 3,000 boys and, because of his personality; he could command total silence when this was needed. He was a driving force behind the Belchamps Scout Camp site at Hawkwell, and like many things he did, it grew under his leadership.

He led British contingents to Jamborees in Europe, America, (where he was given the title of Honorary Sheriff), Australia and many other countries. This aspect of his scouting is commemorated at Wesley Church by the copper collection plate which is in regular use; this was presented to Tom & Peggy (his wife) by the scouts of Libya in 1964, and was presented to the Church in 1979, to mark '60 years of Scouting at Wesley'.

His outstanding service to Scouting was highly honoured, both by the award of the 'Silver Wolf', the highest award in scouting, and by the Queen in 1967, by his investiture as an O.B.E., for his services to scouting and youth work.

Tom passed away on 6 January 1989 following a stroke which he had just before Christmas, he was aged 80. To perpetuate Tom's life, his name appears on a brass plaque in Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road, Leigh. This is mounted on an East facing wall, adjacent to the Group flags which are now laid up. Engraved on the plaque is the Scouts tracking sign 'Gone Home'.



Geoffrey

Geoffrey was born in 1910 and on leaving school he started work as a railway booking clerk. Through a family friend, he learned about different Christian groups and adherents of other faiths, especially Buddhism. While working for the railways, he qualified as a local preacher and then trained for the Wesleyan Methodist ministry at Richmond College, London. In 1933, ignoring his parents' earlier attempts to dissuade him, he went out to Dahomey (now Benin), in French West Africa. He was to work in Africa, on and off, for 19 years.

His missionary career in Dahomey and the Ivory Coast lasted until 1946. In 1936, he had returned to England to become ordained and marry Mary, a nurse he had met at a Methodist meeting some years earlier. In 1940, after being unable to return to Dahomey from leave in England - because it was under Vichy collaborationist rule - Geoffrey worked on the Methodist circuit in Redruth, Cornwall, and the French circuit in Guernsey during the 1940s with another spell in West Africa in between.

During this time, he took London BA and BD degrees externally and worked for an MA, MTh and PhD, based on pioneering empirical research on the indigenous religious beliefs of West Africa. His first book, West African Religion (1949), was followed by more research on religion in Ibadan, which gained him a London University DD. There were many other important publications on African themes related to religion.

In 1949, he was appointed to the department of religious studies at University College Ibadan, in Nigeria, as lecturer and then as senior lecturer teaching many African students and making lasting friendships. In 1958, he became reader in the comparative study of religions at King's College London, where the future Archbishop Desmond Tutu was among his students. Awarded a personal chair in 1970, he was dean of the faculty of theology (1972-74) and retired in 1977.

Geoffrey was a founder member of the British Association for the Study of Religions and an active in the London Society for the Study of Religion, where he was president, and the London Society of Jews and Christians, where he became honorary life president. He helped advance the study of religion as a significant subject.

His obituary in the Guardian describes Geoffrey as a tall, gaunt figure with a mass of hair and erect bearing, who always had a twinkle in his eye, an infectious smile and a welcoming gesture. Family and friends knew him as a spirited, witty raconteur with a love of stimulating conversation, whether pursuing an intellectual or political argument, or just small talk about the latest academic affairs.

A HANDS ON APPROACH TO CRIME

In this age of political correctness and some would say namby pamby handling of criminals, it is interesting to see how criminals were treated in times gone by and just how much involvement the victim had in sorting out the crime. A very hands on approach.

The following is an extract from the Old Bailey records which can now be viewed over the internet at www.oldbaileyonline.org. This case involves John Baxter of Leigh, who appears to have been looking for some fun in London in 1826. John was the son of fisherman Thomas Baxter of Leigh and was 57 years of age at the time of the crime - 11 May 1826.

ANN DIXON was indicted for stealing, on the 12th of April, 1 watch, value 30s.; 1 sovereign, and 1 half-sovereign, the property of John Baxter, from his person.

JOHN BAXTER. I live at Leigh in Essex. I was in East Smithfield on the 12th of April, about one o'clock in the morning; I saw the prisoner there; she asked me to go home with her; I was going, and we stopped in the street about two minutes; we were agreeing about going home - she then ran across the road, and said she would not take me home; I put my hand to my pocket and missed my watch, which I had seen not a quarter of an hour before; I ran across the road, and said "You have got my watch;" she denied it - I heard it tick in her bosom, and I took it from her - she called the watchman, and said I had robbed her of a silk handkerchief - the watchman was taking me to the watch-house, and I missed a sovereign and half-sovereign, which I had in my watch pocket; I saw her searched, but nothing was found on her; she then said she would have me searched for the handkerchief - I said I was willing to be searched, but I knew where the handkerchief was, as I saw her throw it towards the rail - the watchman and I then went and found it when we got back, the man at the watch-house said "Have you got the handkerchief;" the watchman said Yes; and he said "I have found the money;" he then asked me how the money was wrapped up, and I told him it was in two pieces of paper; I had not opened my breeches in the street; I was not drunk - my fob was turned inside out.

WILLIAM WELCH. I am a watchman. On the 12th of April I heard the prisoner cry Watch! - she gave charge of the prosecutor for taking a handkerchief - he then came to me, and said she had robbed him of his watch - he put his hand into her bosom and took it out - as we were going along - he said "I have lost a sovereign and a half;" I went back with him, and found the handkerchief.

THOMAS OBORNE . On Wednesday morning, the 12th of April, the prosecutor and prisoner came to the watch-house; I searched the prisoner, but found nothing upon her - the watchman and the prosecutor then went for the handkerchief - while the prisoner was pinning up her gown the papers, containing a sovereign and a half, fell from her.

Q. Did you ask where she got the money? A. Yes; and she said from a young man to buy some ivory.

JOHN DIXON . I am an ivory and bone turner, and live at No. 15, Rose-lane. I have known the prisoner eighteen months; she has been a very honest and industrious girl-last Tuesday four

weeks I gave her a sovereign, a half-sovereign, and seven shillings to go and buy me some ivory - she went away about three o'clock, and I never heard of her again till the next morning, when I heard she was in the watch-house.

JOHN MANLEY . I am in Dixon's employ. I was at his house four weeks ago last Tuesday, and saw him give the prisoner a sovereign, a half-sovereign, and seven shillings, to go and buy some ivory; I went home to tea, and did not return that night.

Ann Dixon was aged 22 and was found guilty and sentenced to 14 Years transportation..

For those of you who want to research transportation records which are held at the Public Record Office the following information may be of help.

TRANSPORTATION

Registers of convicts on transport ships survive from 1787 to 1834. They often provide evidence of name, when and where convicted, offence and sentence

Male prisoners awaiting transportation were kept in aging ships, known as the hulks, in English rivers and ports until their boat was ready for the trip to Australia. Registers of convicts on these ships survive from 1802 to 1834, and typically provide all or some of the following types of information:

- name
- age
- health
- colour of eyes and hair
- description of eyebrows and lashes, nose, mouth, complexion, visage
- height and physical appearance (including tattoos)
- whether able to read and write
- place of birth
- marital status
- occupation
- offence
- when and where convicted
- sentence
- character (behaviour in gaol, evidence concerning previous convictions)
- how and when discharged (usually to be transported, but some were pardoned)

REGISTERS OF CONVICTS IN AUSTRALIA 1788-1834

Records were also kept of convicts currently serving their sentence in Australia. Information is given under some or all of the following headings:

- name
- date of arrival
- name of ship transported in
- master of ship's name
- whether died on the voyage
- where and when tried
- period for which transported
- how disposed of in Australia

In addition, censuses were kept of all convicts in Australia, even after their sentences had expired.

POTTERING ABOUT DOWN UNDER

Bundock is a name in Leigh which everyone associates with boat building but one of the Bundock family was instrumental in producing an Australian family industry which continues to this day.

In 1876 Charlotte Jane Bundock of Leigh married William Mashman of Lambeth at St Clements.

The Mashmans of Lambeth were a large family all associated with the Lambeth Doulton potteries. Charlotte and William had 2 children in Leigh, Henry in 1878 and Frederick in 1879. Sadly Charlotte died when Frederick was 10 months old and in 1882 father William and his brother Henry emigrated to Sydney leaving the two boys in the care of their Bundock grandparents. The boys stayed with their grandparents until their father sent for them in 1887 and they left from Plymouth on the RMS Orient.



Charlotte Bundock

The following is a brief history of the Australian Mashman business as supplied by Michael Mashman who heads up the firm to day.

The Mashman family holds a somewhat unique position in Australia's ceramic history. Four generations have plied their trade of pottery in Australia, spanning over a hundred years. The foundation of this productive ceramic family goes back to James Mashman, an English potter. James was apprenticed to Henry Doulton of Doulton pottery around 1837, at the mature age of thirteen. In those days a pottery apprenticeship ran for 10 years and the maturing journeyman would specialise in one area of expertise. James' sons, William, Henry and John were all apprenticed to Doultons. William became a small ware thrower, Henry a fancy ware thrower and John an expert at turning and sticking. Following the death of James in 1876 William Mashman married and secured a position at the Victoria Pottery in Leigh, but after Charlotte's death and hearing of the opportunities in Australia William persuaded Henry to emigrate with him to leaving John behind to look their mother and the rest of the family.

William and Henry arrived in Sydney on the ship 'Windsor Castle' on 10th July 1883. They gained employment in Maitland at the 'fieldsend pottery' and commenced to investigate the prospects of starting their own pottery business. The northern districts of Sydney had excellent deposits of good clay and the area seemed set for a building boom as land auctions were taking place and people were seeking land away from the city area.

The brothers entered into a partnership with James Sanderson and formed Mashman and Sanderson "Victoria Pottery" in July 1885 situated in North Willoughby (now known as Chatswood). Two other brothers had arrived from England by this time. Charles and George and commenced work in the new Business. However George left to take up C of E Ministerial duties.

A range of salt glazed items was to be produced at this site

including: Ginger Beer bottles. Bread Pans, Squat Jars, Water filters, etc. The Mashman family all lived in residences on the Chatswood site at this time.

The business continued to grow and the brother's sent for their other brother John in England. their mother Harriet and William's two sons Henry William and Frederick Albert to join them. With John Mashman's skill in turning and sticking the business grew rapidly and in 1890 a steam driven pipe machine, capable of producing a pipe completely in one operation was installed.

In 1890 the firm of Mashman and Sanderson was dissolved_ and the company name changed to Mashman Brothers "Victoria Pottery" with the brothers having an equal share. The demand for drain and agricultural pipes increased and the firm concentrated mainly on the manufacture of these items. Mashmans was a major employer of people in the Chatswood area during this period.

William's second son Frederick Albert left the family business to start up his own operation in 1908 under the name of 'Fred A.. Mashman Pty. Ltd. St. George Pottery., at what is now Mashman Avenue. Kingsgrove. Here he manufactured terra cotta chimney pots, flower pots, air bricks, ridge tiles, roof tiles and finials.

In 1926 the Directors realised that the works were becoming old fashioned and a program was initiated to bring them up to date. A second hand brick press was purchased capable of a staggering 6,000 bricks in an 8 hour shift.

Frederick A. Mashman set up the Sutherland Pottery and Pipe Works in 1927 utilising American pipe making machinery. Fred's three sons joined him in the operation.

In 1932 Mashmans commenced production of 'Bristol Gloss Ware' and 'Regal Art Ware' utilising white clay from the Gulgung region.

Frank Mills a potter from Fowlers Marrickville joined Mashman Brothers in 1935 and introduced mass production techniques enabling the company to compete in the changing pottery industry. By 1940 there were around 70 men employed at the Chatswood site and another 35 men at Auburn. This plant had installed two of the largest shuttle kilns in the Southern hemisphere prior to its closure around 1982.

The Royal Doulton Company of England formed a merger with Mashman Brothers in 1957 forming a company known as Doulton Mashman Pottery Ltd. and by 1959 had completely taken over the works, forming Doulton Sanitary Potteries Pty Ltd. Mashman Brothers relocated their pipe and fittings business to the Auburn Works during this period.

By the early eighties all of the Mashman Brothers operations had closed due to a variety of factors, the cost of energy, introduction of plastic pipes, staff problems, etc., leaving the Kingsgrove pottery as the last remaining Mashman activity. Tim and his son Michael introduced new technologies and new lines maintaining an excellent product and market position.

In 1993 with the death of his father, Michael, a fourth generation Mashman took over the running of the Kingsgrove pottery.



Henry, Frederick and William Mashman

PLANNING REPORT

As ever in the last few months we have been consulted on a number of planning applications in the 4 conservation areas.

An appeal was lodged by the owner of the Rock Shop in the Old Town to change it into a restaurant. We had objected strongly to the several applications on this and submitted a statement to the Appeal Inquiry. A decision is awaited.

We continue to object to the proposals for the change of use of part of Oscars restaurant to a number of flats which we feel is overdevelopment.

Work had already begun on the reconstruction of a jetty at Jago Boatyard. We expressed concern regarding the solid sides which may have an effect on water flow and suggested the PLA should be consulted. Also a condition should be imposed restricting the use of the jetty solely to the adjacent boatyard use and for no other purpose.

The Government had appointed a Panel to consider approaches by local authorities who wanted to have casinos in their areas. We wrote to the Leaders of the political parties on the Council seeking their assurances that before Southend even think of approaching the Panel that they carry out full and extensive consultation in the Borough and that the views expressed be forwarded with any approach to the Panel.

Licensing was another hot topic over the last few months and I am sure all our readers will have read the debate in the national press. In Leigh Old Town, where we had sufficient notice, we objected to extensions proposed by the Smack , which has still to be determined. The Crooked Billet and Peterboat had already had extensions granted.

Our main concern was the lack of consultation of residents and the suggestion that the Old Town was not a residential area to be taken into consideration.

VISIBLE HIGH WATER LINE

Here is a query from Fred Osborne in New Zealand.

If you look at the Tithe Map of 1847 there is an earlier High Water Line (HWL) to be seen. Starting at the western end of the High Street it is very close to the southern edge of the street (this is at the west end of the cockles sheds).

It then goes on to Billet Wharf and G A Fripp's painting of Billet Wharf (1852) shows the HWL very close to the street.

If you then follow the southern edge of the High Street to Bell Wharf and on on this line to the beach, it looks like the land to the south of this line is reclaimed land. It is all straight lines on vertical sides of the wharves which lends credence to this.

Fred wonders just how long was this earlier HWL in use. It almost follows the line of the High Street, so could the High Street have been the first area of reclamation.

Anyone care to comment on this?

AND FINALLY

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the particular author and not necessarily those of the committee and officers of the Society.

We rather hope you will like to keep your copy of Leighway but if not please recycle it.

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THE SURGICAL SALMON

Of course all of us in Leigh know that we have a famous bunch of mariners of the 17th century who were Brethren of Trinity House, the Haddocks, Hares and Moyers to name but three.

In St Clements there is a memorial to a fourth Leigh seafaring family, the Salmons.

The memorial is to Robert Salmon (1566-1641) but his ancestors had long been Leigh men. Robert was a master of Trinity House in 1617.

But the Salmons weren't just sea men.

In 1602 was born in Leigh, Peter Salmon, son of Robert who became a great medical man and Physician to King Charles 1.

Peter started his medical practice in 1632 and studied at Oxford and Padua.

In his will of 1675 Peter left several bequests to Leigh. To *'fower of the poore and antient men in Leigh in Essex thirty shillings apiece and unto fower of the poore and antient women in Leigh aforesaid twenty shillings apiece'*. [no equal opportunities there then]. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know who they were?

Another bequest of £3 a quarter went to his sister, Mary Goodlad (another old Leigh family) and he left to his grandson Salmon Willett (poor lad) his house in Leigh with areas adjoining to the north in the occupation of [unfortunately at the moment the names are unreadable].

He also bequeathed land and holdings in Fobbing, Stanford-le-Hope, Lincoln and Stepney and interestingly he bequeathed to his daughter, Frances Master, all his land in Seething Lane in London *'whereon stood my two tenements lately burnt neere the Navy Office'*

The Navy Office was built in Seething Lane in 1656 and in 1660 Samuel Pepys was appointed Clerk of the Acts of the Navy and given a house in the Lane. In 1872 the Navy Office was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt in 1674-5 on the old site to a design by Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke.

So a Salmon from Leigh lived cheek by jowl with the most famous English Diarist. Just to give you a taste of the opulence of the area this is the Navy Office as Pepys and Peter Salmon would have known it.



Seething Lane Gardens is now on the site of the former Navy Office and official residence of the Clerk of the Acts. Samuel Pepys resided here from July 1660 and is buried in nearby St Olave's Church. To visit the gardens and church, Seething Lane is near Fenchurch Street station.