



Building Engineering Services HERITAGE REVISITED

Part 11

**Frank Ferris
CIBSE Heritage Group**

VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN STREET FURNITURE



SS GREAT BRITAIN EXHIBITION BRISTOL



A rare example of a James Allan Snr & Son Elmbank Foundry Glasgow rectangular single doorway 4 stall Urinal located on the dockside of the SS Great Britain exhibition site in Bristol. It carries the James Allan Senr & Son nameplate.





Victorian and Edwardian Street Furniture

INTRODUCTION

The Heritage Group decided to carry out research into whether any examples of street furniture favoured by the Victorian & Edwardian and built during those periods as cast iron street urinals and drinking fountains were still extant in the 21st century.

Lucinda Lambton the author in her book refers to certain items of street furniture as 'Temples of Convenience'.

The ongoing and progressive increase in the demand requirements for health and safety and environmental health must have speeded up the demise of this type of external toilet or drinking fountain public facility. Nevertheless, it was found that cast iron urinals still exist around the country with several still in use, as can be seen from the following examples.

The great majority of these toilet facilities were provided for males use but two examples have been found that were provided for female use, Chilton Open Air Museum & Sydney Gardens Bath Spa.

Birmingham and Bristol are two cities which have retained many of these old structures that have been Listed Grade II. They can also be found in preserved heritage railways, public parks and museums both open-air and closed.

Acknowledgement is given to John Bolton of Scottish Ironwork Foundation who has provided many of the examples of the cast iron urinals

CONTENTS

Heritage Revisited Part 11 March 2021 illustrates a selection of these public conveniences and drinking fountains which can still be found, some have been renovated and remain in use; some have become museum exhibits; but the great majority have been abandoned and just left to deteriorate and become derelict.

EAST SOMERSET PRESERVED HERITAGE RAILWAY



A fine example of a single doorway Urinal at the Cranmore Station of the East Somerset Preserved Heritage Railway in Somerset. The name of the manufacturer displayed on one front panel is Walter Macfarlane of Glasgow made at their Saracen foundry



le BORDAGE, St PETER PORT GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS



This delightful setting for a 4-stall rectangular cast iron urinal can be found at le Bordage, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. The high level mounting of the cold-water header cistern gives it an unusual appearance. The manufacturer is James Allan Senr & Son of Glasgow.

MUSEUM OF WELSH LIFE ST FAGANS WALES



This fine restored example of a Walter Macfarlane Cast iron urinal made at the Saracen Glasgow Foundry was manufactured during the Edwardian period.





It was transferred from Llandrindod Wells, Powys where it is understood to have been sited on the platform of the railway station.

Pisdy Llandrindod

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Urinal Llandrindod Wells

A wydddech chi y byddwch yn treulio cymaint â thair blynedd o'ch bywyd yn y tŷ bach? Beth wnelech chi pe baech chi'n mynd o gartre a bod dim tai bach cyhoeddus i'w cael?


Dim ond yn ystod oes Fictoria y cafwyd nifer sylweddol o dai bach cyhoeddus. Cafodd Deddf Iechyd y Cyhoedd 1848 ei chyflwyno yn ymateb i'r budreddi a nodweddiad drefni oes Fictoria. Gwaith yr ymgyrchydd o beirannydd George Jennings oedd cyfleusterau cyhoeddus cyntaf Prydain. Roedd y tai bach hyn yn codi un geiniog a dyna'r pris safonol hyd i arian degol gael ei gyflwyno ym 1971.

Cyfleusterau ar gyfer dynion oedd y rhan fwyaf. Ychydig iawn o ddarpariaeth oedd i'r merched gan eu bod, yn ôl y farn gyffredin, yn fwy tebygol o sefyll gartre. Hyd yn oed heddiw mae yna saith tŷ bach i ddynion am bob tri i ferched yn ein trefi.

Gwnaed y pisdy hwn yn Glasgow gan Walter Macfarlane Cyl. Gannif yn ôl, roedd y cwmmi'n allforio adeiladau haearn bwirw i'r byd i gyd. Yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd, diflannodd nifer o adeiladau o'r fath pan gymerwyd yr haearn bwirw yn ddeunydd crai ar gyfer y diwydiannau rhyfel. Caewyd llawer o dai bach cyhoeddus yn ddiweddar oherwydd y gort o'u cynnal, gan sbarduno ymgyrch i ddiogelu y rhai sydd ar ôl.



Stallau cerbyd
Carnegie Illustrations
Macfarlane & Co



Did you know that you will spend three years of your life going to the loo? What would you do if you were away from home and there were no public toilets?

Public toilets only appeared in any large numbers in Victorian times. The squalor that existed in Victorian towns led to the Public Health Act of 1848, which called for better sanitation to be provided. Britain's first public toilets were the work of the campaigning engineer George Jennings. The charge for their use was one penny, a price that remained standard for public conveniences until decimal currency was introduced in 1971. This is why 'spending a penny' is used to mean going to the toilet.

Nearly all public conveniences were for men with few provided for women. This was because women were considered more likely to stay at home. The ratio of toilets in town centres is still 7:3 in favour of men.

This urinal was made in Glasgow by Walter Macfarlane Ltd. A hundred years ago, they exported cast iron buildings to all parts of the globe. During the Second World War, many of these buildings disappeared when cast iron was requisitioned as raw material for the war industries. In recent years, a number of public toilets have been closed because of high maintenance costs, sparking a campaign to save those that remain.

1775	1848	1851	1852	1860au's	1880au's	1895	1928	1950au's	2000	2005
Alexander Cummings yn codi paratoi ar gartre ddi. Alexander Cummings patents flushing toilet	Deddf Iechyd y Cyhoedd yn dilyn Actonau Iechyd Public Health Act following cholera epidemics	Tai bach Jennings yn sefydluau yn yr Ardangorfa Fawr Jennings public toilets at Great Ardangorfa - a great hit	Agor y tŷ bach cyhoeddus cyntaf yn Llundain First public toilet opened in London	Polio-greiddio cleobtau allu yn tybodd y gartre am 40000 Prevalence of water clebs increases demand for water	Rhai argor ar draws oher Ffyrwy i ddarparu ddi ar gyfer Llundain Rise tyngwy in Wales demand to provide Liverpool with water	Tai bach cyhoeddus yn 36 o drefi Prydain Public toilets in 36 British towns	Gwerthu telerau papur iŷ bach am y tro cyntaf Toilets with first roll in Britain	Awdurdodau lleol yn codi tai bach wedi'r Ail Ryfel Byd Local authorities build new public conveniences after second World War	40% o boblogrwydd y tŷ holl ddi dai bach 40% of the world's population without access to toilet	Miler y tai bach cyhoeddus yn Llandrindod Wells hanner ar 1980 Number of public toilets in Britain halved since 1980

NATIONAL TRAM MUSEUM CRICH DERBYSHIRE



This excellent restored double doorway urinal is on display at the National Tram Museum in Crich Derbyshire. It can be found adjacent to the Red Lion public house as one of the exhibits and part of the street scene.



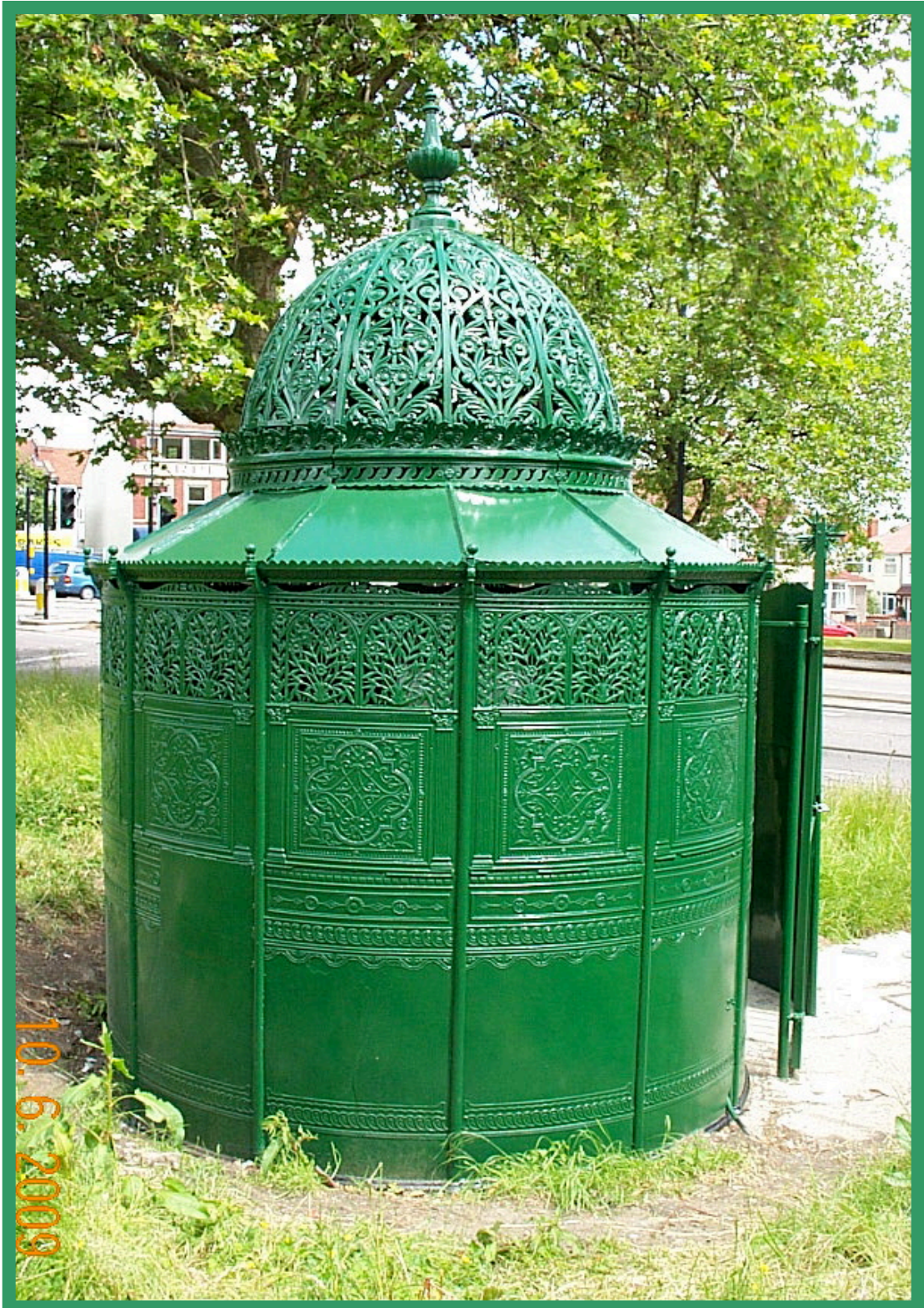
CHURCH IN ORMSKIRK LANCASHIRE



This 3 stall urinal is sited in the grounds of an Ormskirk Church located against an external wall. It is in excellent condition complete with security gate to deter vandalism. The manufacturer is McDowall Steven & Co. Milton Ironworks Glasgow.



HORFIELD COMMON BRISTOL



This example is described as a round pattern with curved entrance screen of decorative panels pierced to the top, with a raking roof to a filigree dome with bowl finial. It was made by George Smith & Co at their Sun Foundry in Glasgow.

It is a Grade II listed structure given a complete upgrade, refurbishment with the original paint colour restored.



JEWELLERY QUARTER BIRMINGHAM



This 5 stall rectangular urinal manufactured by Walter Macfarlane is located adjacent to the railway station in the Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham.



NATIONAL RAIL MUSEUM YORK



This wonderfully restored single person male cast iron urinal is displayed at the National Rail Museum in York. It was originally sited on the platform at Curthwaite rail station in Cumberland on the Maryport Carlisle Railway. It was made by George Smith & Co at their Sun Foundry in Glasgow.

SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA



*The photos of the urinal under Sydney Harbour Bridge Australia
were provided by Group Member Paul Yunnie*



This excellent example of a double doorway 2 stall urinal to a design of James Allan Snr & Son Elmbank Foundry Glasgow, is in a remarkably preserved condition and can be found on the roadway under the Sydney harbour bridge in Australia.

The irony of its location is that although here is a toilet facility provided for male relief the notice on the adjacent lamppost says

NO STOPPING.

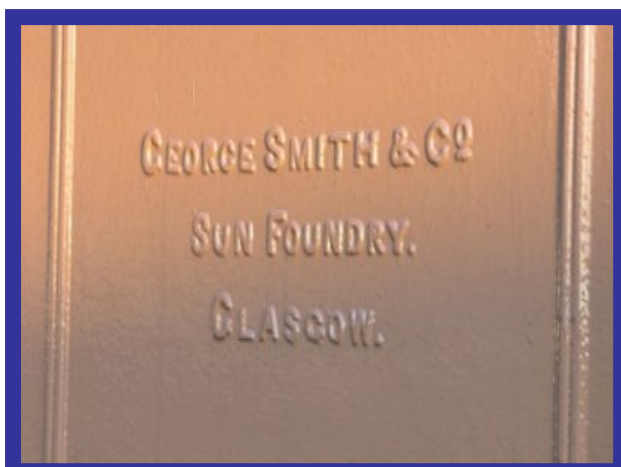


The name marked on the urinal is B G Plummer & Co Sydney. Comparison however, of the floral design on the right hand side Sydney panels shows an almost perfect copy with the left hand side panels found on the Urinal at the S.S. Great Britain exhibition site in Bristol, England.

It must follow that B G Plummer had an agreement with James Allan Snr & Son of Glasgow to manufacture their Urinals in Australia.



SEVERN VALLEY PRESERVED RAILWAY BEWDLEY WORCS



This double doorway rectangular Urinal is another fine example made by George Smith & Co at their Sun Foundry in Glasgow. It can be found on the platform of Bewdley Station which is part of the Severn Valley Preservation Heritage Railway that runs from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth.

The urinal was purchased from British Rail and erected in 1977. It was opened in September of that year

SEATON TRAMWAY COLYFORD DEVON



Another fine example of a 4 stall double doorway Urinal is to be found at the Colyford Station of the Seaton Tramway in Devon.

The name of the manufacturer is not displayed but the pattern on the panels are similar to that of Lockerbie & Wilkinson of Birmingham.

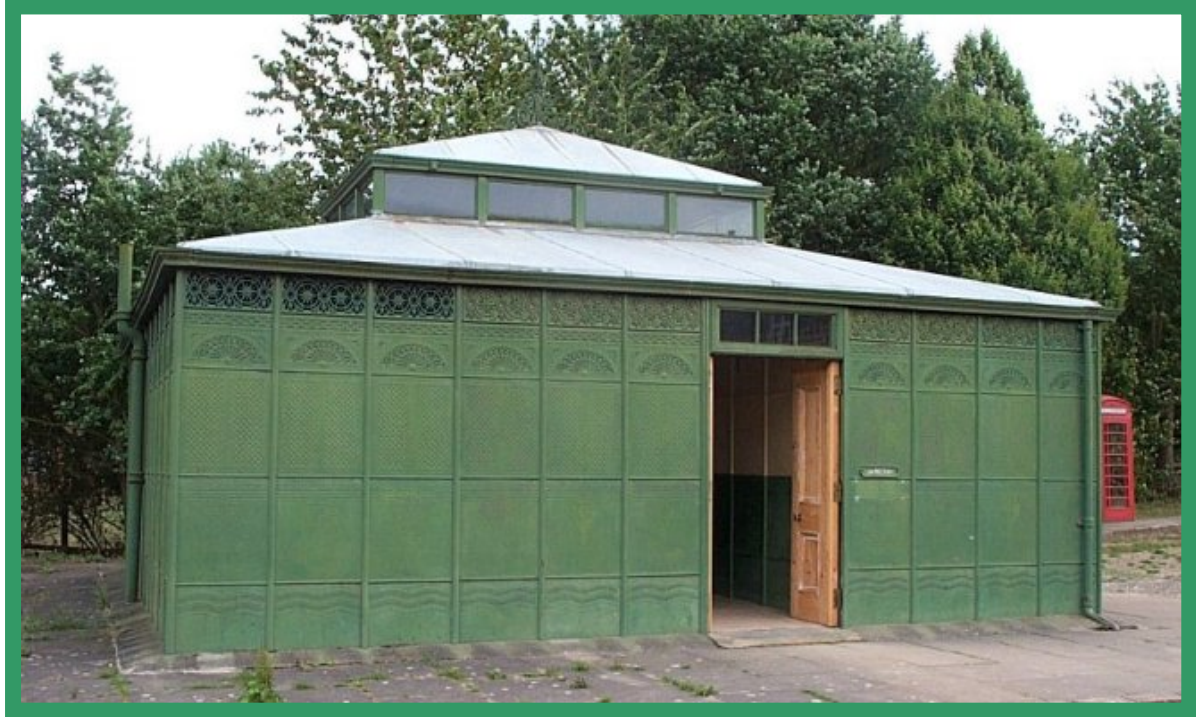
HARBORNE BIRMINGHAM





This 6 stall Urinal possibly installed as a separate item of pavement street furniture appears to have been absorbed into the layout of the Public House building when it was extended at a later date. No makers name is noted on any of the cast iron panels, but the pattern on the panels bare a resemblance to the Lockerbie & Wilkinson design.

CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



This Public Convenience celebrated its centenary in 2006. Previously sited in Caversham in Berkshire it was considered by Reading Borough Council to have reached the end of its useful life and was closed. The year was 1980. Alternative uses were then considered, but none found to be suitable.

The building and its contents were originally purchased by Reading Borough Council in 1906 and provided for the use of passengers using the tramway at the Caversham terminus. The cast iron decorated panel structure is partitioned suitable for separate male and female use. It was manufactured at the Saracen Ironfoundry of Walter MacFarlane & Co. in Glasgow.

In 1985 the building was donated by Reading Borough Council to the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Its team of dedicated volunteers then dismantled, removed and rebuilt it in its present location between the years 1987 and 1991. It was finally opened in 1992 to provide public toilet facilities for the Museum.



STAR YARD CHANCERY LANE LONDON



This double doorway Urinal is located in Star Yard off Chancery Lane in London. Both doorways have now been blocked off. It has a Georgian wired panelled glass roof.



The makers name is displayed on the left external panel. It can only be seen very close up and one needs to know just where to look. The name "McDowall Steven & Co" - "Milton Ironworks" is inscribed around the top circle with the place name "Glasgow" inscribed around the bottom of the circle. Below is an easily readable example



PUBLIC PARK BRISTOL



This example is described as a round pattern with curved entrance screen of decorative panels pierced to the top, with a raking roof to a filigree dome with a bowl finial. It was made by George Smith & Co at their Sun Foundry in Glasgow. It is a Grade II listed structure given a complete upgrade, refurbishment with the original paint colour restored.

SYDNEY GARDENS BATH SPA



This strangely shaped rectangular urinal could be found in Sydney Gardens, Bath Spa.

It is a Grade II listed structure which has unfortunately been allowed to deteriorate and although most of the surrounding trees and bushes have been trimmed back, the branches of trees are detrimentally affecting the roof of the building. The continuing tree growth will eventually break the panes of the roof glazing. The building is now inaccessible as the doorway has been closed off and locked. The name of the manufacturer is not displayed but the pattern on the panels are similar to that of Lockerbie & Wilkinson of Birmingham.

YORK HOUSE GARDENS RICHMOND-ON-THAMES LONDON



Another example of a double doorway 4 stall urinal can be found in York House Gardens, Richmond on Thames, London. It was manufactured by Walter Macfarlane at their Saracen Ironworks in Glasgow. This Urinal is still in use.



DEVONPORT DOCKYARD FERRY ROAD ENTRANCE



This double entrance door rectangular Urinal stood at the entrance to the dockyard in Ferry Road, Devonport. This photograph was shown in the 'Pillar to Post' 1982 book by Henry Aarons. It shows the excellent condition it was kept in for its age.

The manufacturer is James Allan Senr & Son of Elmbank Works Glasgow. It had 6 stalls and a pitched Georgian wired glazed roof, it has now been dismantled and removed to storage in a local Museum.



THORN PARK PLYMOUTH DEVON



This unusual single person round urinal is located in Thorn Park, Plymouth.
It was manufactured at the Saracen Ironfoundry of
Walter MacFarlane in Glasgow

DRINKING WATER FOUNTAINS

The drinking water fountain has a history which dates back into pre-history with the ancient Greeks. In more recent times it has been a method of allowing ordinary people to be able to drink water provided by the local water authority.

The Victorians & Edwardians were well known for their ornamental and highly decorative drinking water fountains. Whether they are to be found located inside a Building or on the Street, these fountains are items of engineering and architectural history. The following pages show drinking water fountains of unusual design and / or exceptional quality found by the Heritage Group.

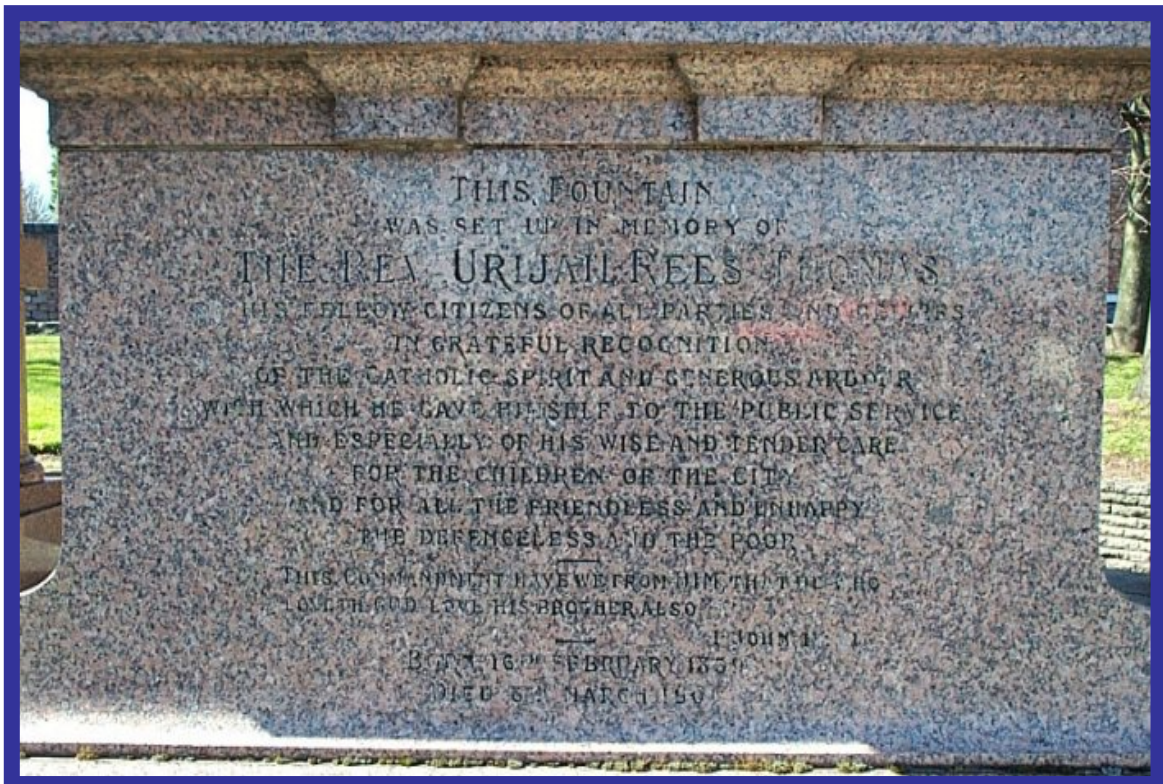


This excellent example of a highly ornate and decorative drinking water fountain (now unused) in Victorian highly glazed colourful tiles is located in the Old Library Building in Cardiff and dates from the 1890's when the building was refurbished.

CLIFTON BRISTOL



This drinking fountain was erected in 1904
It is a Grade II listed structure and located in Clifton Bristol



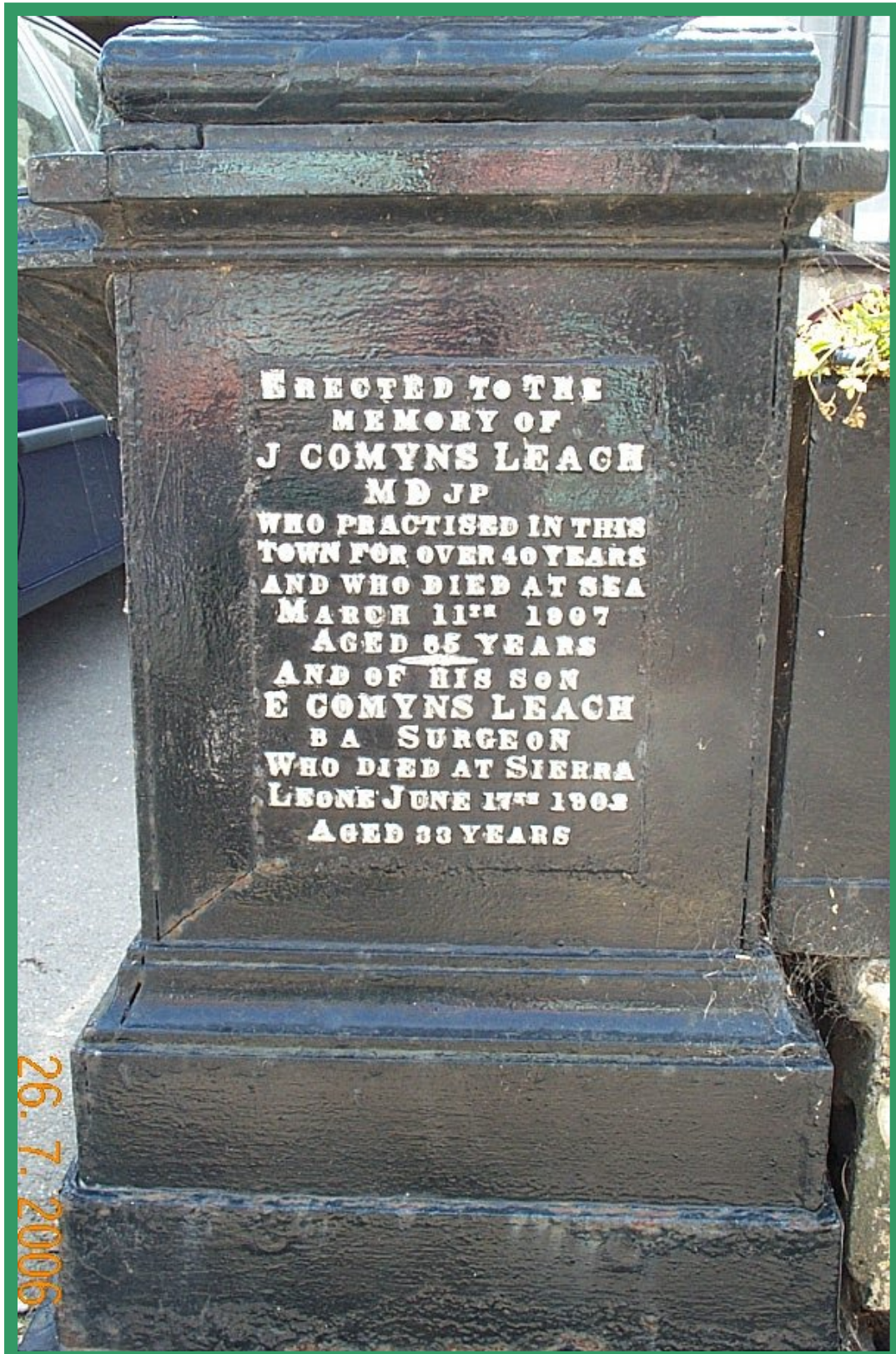
This drinking fountain was erected in memory of The Reverend Urijah Rees Thomas in recognition of his dedication to the service of the public.

STURMINSTER NEWTON DORSET



This cast-iron drinking fountain and horse trough was erected to the memory of J Comyns Leach MD JP and his son E Comyns Leach both doctors located in Sturminster Newton, Dorset who both died during the Edwardian period.

Note the small statue of Neptune with his trident which adorns the top of the drinking fountain.



TROWBRIDGE MUSEUM WILTSHIRE



This Victorian cast iron drinking fountain can be seen in the Trowbridge Museum, Wiltshire

Salters Drinking Fountain

This cast iron fountain was rescued from the outside of Home Mills when The Shires shopping centre was being built in 1988-9.

Dated 1868, it was probably not in use until 1877 because of the poor quality water which came from a well in Waterworks Road. After that, pure water was piped to the town from Biss Bottom Springs at Upton Scudamore.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 30th June 1877

Drinking Fountain at Home Mills

Mr Gouldsmith has had an ornamental iron drinking fountain, supplied with water from the Water Company's mains, placed in the yard of the Home Mills, Fore Street, for the use of the workpeople, who can slake their thirst this hot weather by a draft of pure spring water, which flows out of a lion's mouth copiously by turning a tap.

DURDHAM DOWNS BRISTOL



This Victorian fountain is a Grade II listed structure and can be seen close to the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. The Drinking fountain section has been removed



The fountain has a different religious verse on each face.

SOMERTON SOMERSET

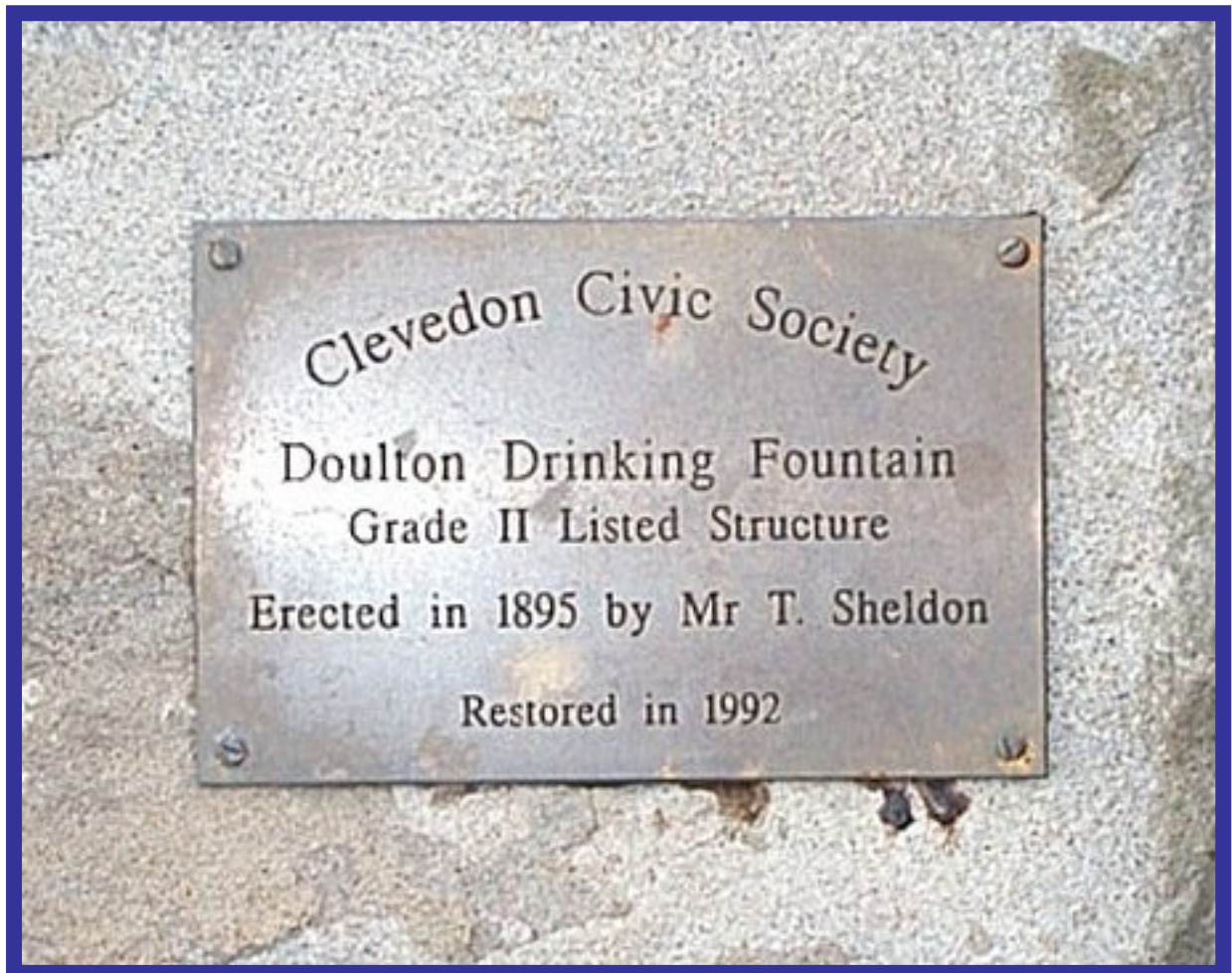


This cast iron drinking fountain made at Coalbrookdale was erected to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, and can be seen in Cow Square, Somerton, Somerset. It provided water for people, horses and pets.



CLEVEDON SOMERSET





A very colourful Victorian tiled drinking fountain for people and their pets to be found in Clevedon Somerset.

QUEEN'S GARDENS WARRINGTON CHESHIRE



This fountain which dates from Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year of 1897 can be found in the Queen's Gardens of the Palmyra Square Conservation Area in Warrington, Cheshire. Only the canopy remains and is a Grade II listed structure.

Robert Garrett a wealthy local businessman presented to this Public Park the royal centre piece of a cast iron drinking water fountain.



The excellent quality of the ironwork can be seen in the profile image of Queen Victoria on the canopy. The fountain was manufactured by William Macfarlane at their Saracen Foundry in Glasgow.



The four faces of the canopy show on two sides a profile of Queen Victoria and on the other two sides an image of a stork, with the inscription
KEEP THE PAVEMENT DRY

The photos of the Queens Park, Warrington, Drinking Fountain were provided by Group Member Geoff Brundrett

HORFIELD COMMON BRISTOL



This cast-iron pedestal drinking fountain with light lantern was erected in 1900 and is to be found on a corner of Horfield Common in Bristol.



CIBSE HERITAGE GROUP



*back row (l-r) Chris Sugg, Brian Roberts, Neil Sturrock, John Barnes, Richard Forster, Frank Ferris
front row (l-r) Geoff Brundrett, Caroline Cattini, ** Jane Insley, ** ** outside the
Houses of Parliament on one of the many visits to the Palace of Westminster*

This eleventh book in the Building Engineering Services Heritage Revisited Series makes a distinctive change from its predecessors Part 2 and Part 10. This time it shows extant examples of Street Furniture that were provided during the Victorian & Edwardian periods for the health benefit of the general public. It is again a collaborative effort by the members of the CIBSE Heritage Group. Thanks are given to members who have contributed to the store of books, documents, photographs and illustrations in the Heritage Group Collection. Special thanks go to our friends at Historic England and National Trust for their considerable assistance.



For more information about the street furniture in this booklet visit the
Heritage Group Website at www.hevac-heritage.org