

GUESS THE OBJECT



When was it used?



What is it?

Why was it used?



Who used it?

Fireman's Helmet

This brass Chertsey **Fire Brigade helmet** has a **detachable brass badge** and came with a pair of **brass epaulettes** (shoulder pieces).

In the mid 19th century firefighters wore leather helmets for protection against ash and falling debris, but in the late 1860s they were replaced with metal ones.

The brass Merryweather-style helmet was based on the headwear of French *Sapeurs-pompiers* and was **first introduced into Britain in 1868**. It remained in use **until 1936-1938**, when it was replaced by helmets made of compressed cork and rubber. These were much more practical than the heavy brass helmets, and much safer. As more and more homes had electricity it wasn't wise to wear conductive, metal helmets.

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Spats

These are a pair of spats or short gaiters made of buff coloured wool. They were donated to the Chertsey Museum by Mr Johnston who ran a gentleman's outfitters at 5 High Street, Addlestone, from 1910 until he retired in the mid-1960s.

Spatterdashes, or spats for short, were primarily worn by men in the late 19th century to protect their shoes and socks from mud and rain. As time progressed into the early part of the 20th century they became a fashion item associated with the wealthy.

Spats fell out of favour in the mid 1930s but their demise had started almost a decade before when, in 1926, King George V appeared at the opening of the Chelsea Flower Show without them.

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Roman Strainer sherd

This pottery sherd dates to the **1st century AD** and is from a carinated (rounded base with inward sloping sides) **bowl rim with a spout and strainer**. It was recovered from the Thames near Magna Carta Island in the late 1990s during dredging work.

Bowls such as this were in use in Britain before the Roman occupation, but they tended to be in bronzework, whereas the earliest ceramic examples date from c.30AD. These bowls were initially used to strain local drinks such as beers.

Archaeological evidence from the Roman fort at Vindolanda, on Hadrian's Wall, shows that the soldiers stationed there drank a lot of ale! Military accounts written on wooden tablets have been unearthed there, and at other forts along the defence, which give details of the ceruese (beer) the soldiers bought from local brewers.