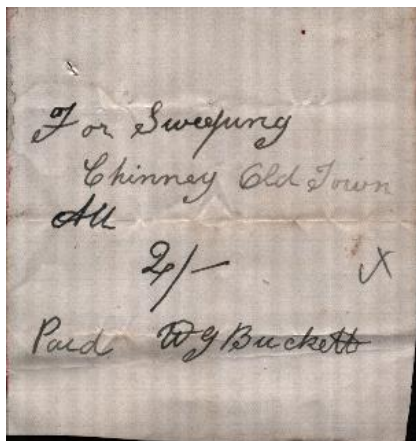


Brading Town Book 1845 - Chimneys



A receipt for sweeping the chimney at the Old Town Hall in 1925

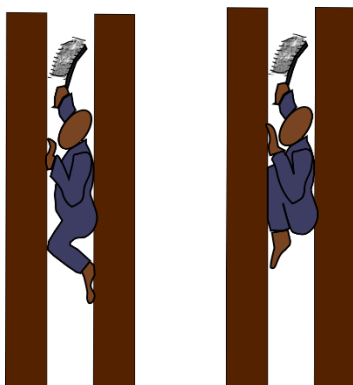
Chimneys first appear in rich people's homes about 800 years. They became more common in houses about 400 years ago.

When wood or coal is burnt in a fireplace the smoke is drawn up the chimney. The column from the fire to the chimney is called a flue.

When wood or coal is burned in a fireplace, smoky sooty deposits are created which stick to the inside of the chimney to form creosote. If this build up in the flue then the fuel is burnt with less oxygen which means even more soot builds up.



A Victorian chimney sweep



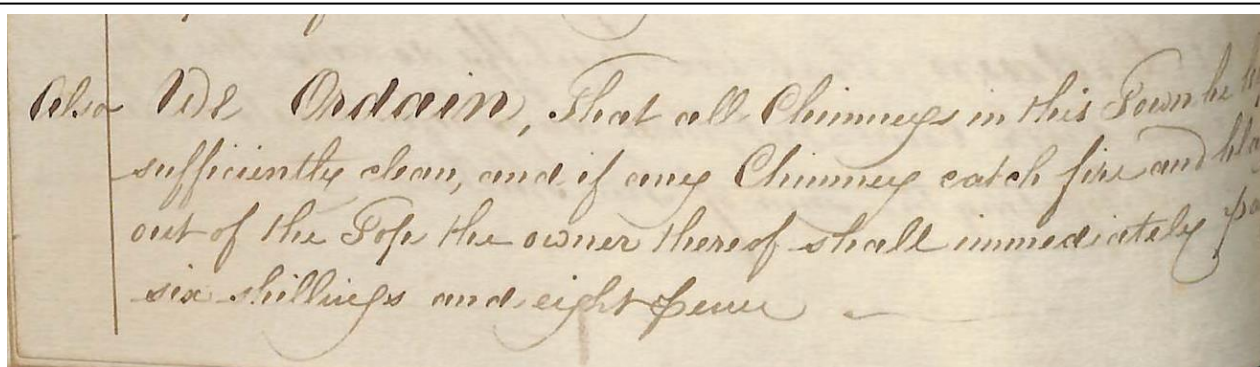
A boy climbing on the left and a boy getting stuck on the right

This needs to be removed so that the chimney doesn't become blocked. A blocked chimney can be dangerous because smoke and fumes can't escape.

Also a build-up of soot or a fallen birds nest can lead to chimney fires.

This is why it is important to have chimneys swept every year. The receipt above is a receipt for the chimney being swept in the Old Town Hall.

This is an entry from the Brading Town Book in 1845. Can you read the original scan and transcription?



Also- We Ordain, That all Chimneys in this Town be kept sufficiently clean, and if any Chimney catch fire and blaze out of the Top the owner thereof shall immediately pay six shillings and eight pence

- Look at the receipt for the chimney being swept in the New Town hall. Why was it important that the chimney was kept clean?
- Why would a chimney fire be so dangerous in Brading High Street?
- Look at the photos from 150 – 90 years ago on the next page. Are there as many chimneys on houses in Brading today? How are most houses heated today?
- Chimneys used to be swept by children as they were small and could get into small spaces. Can you find out more about the dangers for a chimney sweep and an Island boy called Valentine Gray?

Things to think about

