

Brading Town Book 1845 - Privies



wooden privy or outside toilet

What were toilets like in Victorian Brading?
Unless you were rich you had to visit the privy. This meant you had to go outside to a place that looked like a small shed.

This was before there were flushing toilets and sewers.

Urine and faeces (wee and poo) went into big pits below called cesspits or cesspools. This was a large hole that was often lined with stone or bricks.

Sometimes the privy was placed over a bucket that would be emptied into a cesspit. Other times it was placed directly over the pit and the whole shed was moved once the pit was full. The pits were emptied at night by 'night soil men' The waste would be turned into fertiliser and bought by farmers to make their land more fertile.



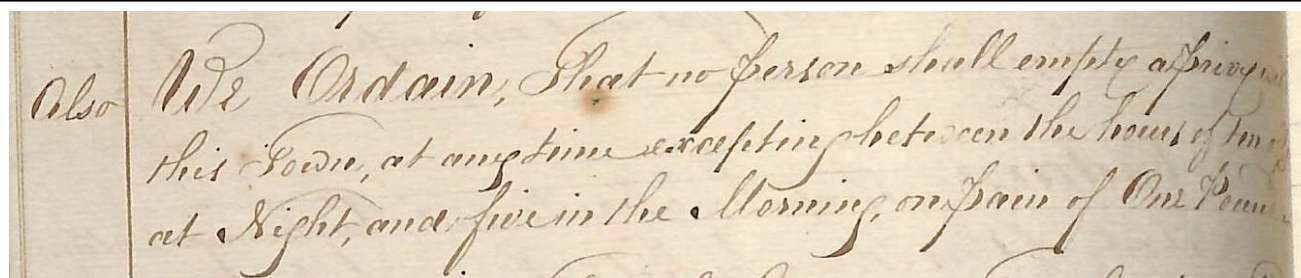
An example of a Victorian privy or toilet



LONDON NIGHTMEN

Night soil men emptying a privy

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



Also- We Ordain, That no person shall empty a privy in this Town, at any time excepting between the hours of ten at Night and five in the Morning, on pain of One Pound (this was a fine worth £122 today)

Things to think about

- Why do you think a privy had to be emptied between 10pm and 5am?
- Did rich people have the same toilets? Find out if there were any differences between the rich and poor.

Images from [Privies – How we went to the toilet in Victorian England - \(backinthedayof.co.uk\)](http://backinthedayof.co.uk) and [What work did a Nightman carry out? \(historyhouse.co.uk\)](http://historyhouse.co.uk)

