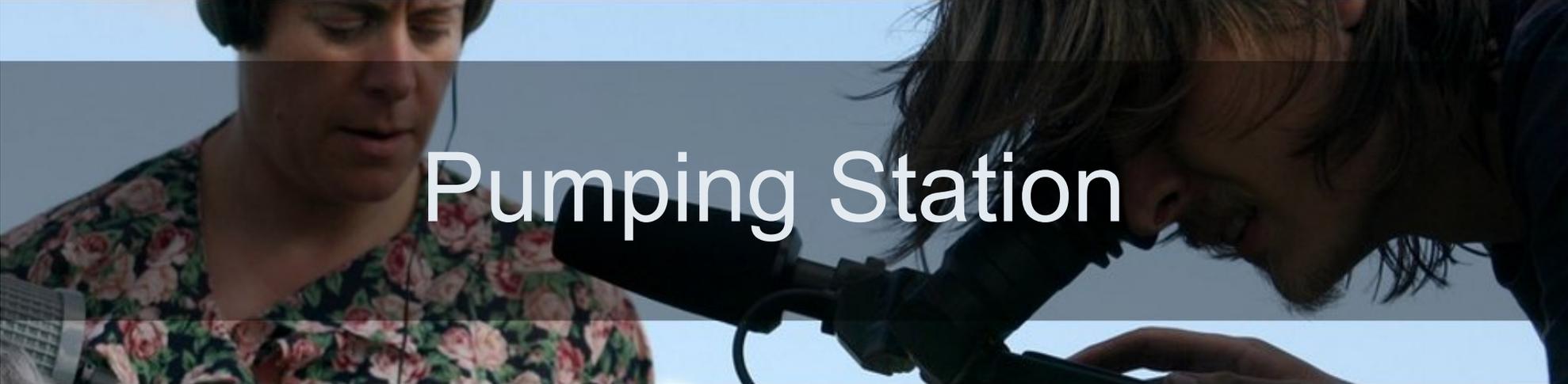


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Pumping Station

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# What was the Museum of Technology in the past?



The Cambridge Museum of Technology was built in 1894 as the Cheddars Lane Pumping Station.

Before then, all sewage and household waste was simply thrown in the river – yuk!

The pumping station was built to pump waste water two miles away to Milton, where the sewage could be processed and still is today!

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Can you spot the pumping station's chimney in the background?

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# Pumping Station Chimney



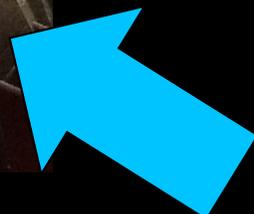
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**FACTOID!**  
The chimney is 180 ft tall  
(about 45 children standing  
on top of each other's  
shoulders).

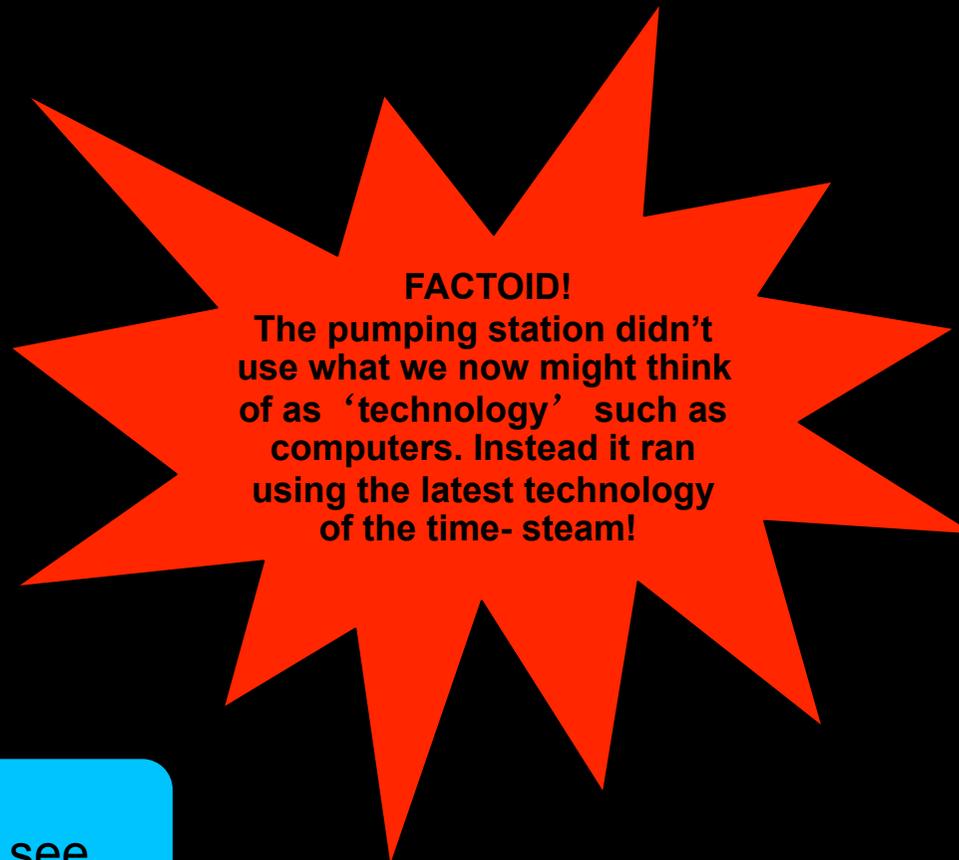
**FACTOID!**  
During WW2 blackout a  
wooden shell was built over  
the engine fires to hide them  
from bombers.

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# What Technology did the Pumping Station use?



The pumping station used the same steam technology as trains- can you see how it looks a bit like a steam train?



## FACTOID!

The pumping station didn't use what we now might think of as 'technology' such as computers. Instead it ran using the latest technology of the time- steam!

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# Why Did They Build Gas Engines Too?



The gas engines pumped the excess sewage on to storage tanks on site so that the steam engines could handle it later.

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**FACTOID!**  
The gas engines were built in 1909 to assist the steam engines when the Cam would overflow, as this would cause the sewers to flood-yuk!

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# What Fuel Did the Pumping Station Use?



The pumping station used coal and burning rubbish as its fuel. The coal was brought to the Pumping Station using these trucks.

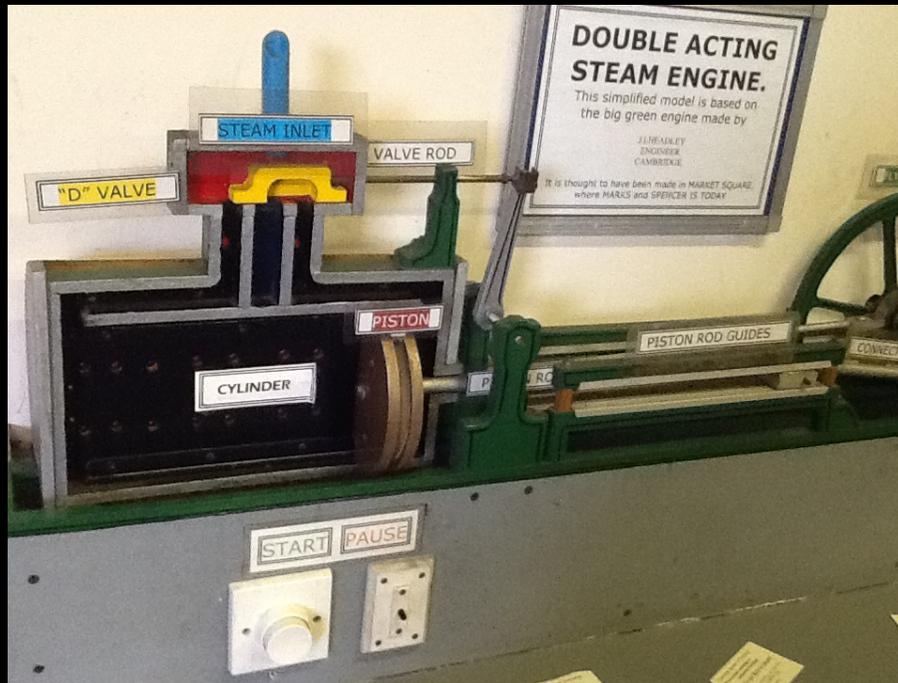
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## **FACTOID!**

Since the site burned rubbish as well as coal, people brought all sorts of other things to be burned. At one point, a zoo brought a dead crocodile to be burned, only it turned out the crocodile had only been sleeping! It woke up in the furnace and almost bit off a worker's arm before it was locked inside!

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# How Do Pumping Engines Work?



The pumping engines ran on steam created by heating water. This pressurised steam was used to move pistons back and forth.

You can find pistons in a car, which might have six, eight, or even twelve pistons moving back and forth to make the car move.

In a car, a piston is about the size of your finger! Whereas the steam engines have only have one piston each, and each piston is over a metre wide, so much larger!

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# How Do Pumping Engines Work?



**FACTOID!**  
The power of an engine is measured in 'horsepower'.

The steam engines have a horsepower of about 80. So if you had a team of 80 horses pulling a rope in one direction, and these engines pulling in the opposite direction, no one would move!

In comparison a family car has between 100 and 200 horsepower, a Ferrari has a horsepower of 560, and a monster truck would have a horsepower of 1500!

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# What Was Working at the Pumping Station like?



It must have been extremely hard work shovelling rubbish and coal all day, as the space was hot, smelly and very uncomfortable. Many workers lost their feet from sharp shovels or being crushed under moving weights of fuel. But because there were people here 24 hours a day, the workers became a bit like a family to each other.

## **FACTOID!**

The people that came to work in the morning brought bacon and eggs to cook on the hot engines so that everyone could have a full belly at the start of the day!

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# What Happened to the Pumping Station?

The pumping station used steam power until it shut down in 1968. It was then replaced by a newer engine called a vortex engine, which ran using electricity instead of coal- an exciting new invention!



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## **FACTOID!**

The engines first started in 1894, and pumped water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until the site closed in 1968. So they pumping non-stop for a whopping 74 years!

The old pumping station has now been made into a museum, for people to visit, explore and learn about technology!

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# Web Resources available at [www.creatingmycambridge.com](http://www.creatingmycambridge.com)

history works

Home About Events Histories Songs/Creative Photography How-to/Lesson Plans

## CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE

'Creating My Cambridge' is a project to share historical sources about Cambridge's people and places, past and present. It uses histories to inspire creativity and cultures of belonging. The aim is to give voice to school pupils, singers, musicians, poets, rappers, storytellers, film-makers and composers. Historyworks is working with top poets like Michael Rosen & witty lyricists like CBBC's *Horrible Histories* song writers, organizing workshops and events to help young people get creative. Do use these resources and contribute subjects and creative pieces. All Welcome!

From History to Creativity: Michael Rosen demonstrates artistic practice and roars at the Fitzwilliam Museum from Historyworks

Creating My Cambridge - Body Percussion from Historyworks

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