



Hunstanton Society

Objects of Interest – Glass Bottles

We have at the Heritage Centre many examples of beach finds. These include glass bottles with various manufacturers' names. Many of these are broken (as it happens, deliberately by children, keen to get the marble out from the top of the "Cod Bottles"). The bottlers would order bottles with their names embossed in the hope that they would get them returned (as well as to promote the product).

Famously known for its chalybeate springs, Hunstanton could provide a "constant supply of pure spring water from public works" (i.e. tap water). Mineral waters were produced in Hunstanton on several sites. This article looks at the history of the one at the top of Chapel Lane. This is to the rear of the group of buildings once known as Somerset Buildings – facing the south end of High Street and originating from before the road name "Westgate" was in use. The following picture is the site today:



Before 1888 the site was owned by Thomas Dungey Guy, who operated the bottling business at the rear. After his death, the whole site was sold to various buyers including James Lambert, the house used for years afterwards as a

grocer's. They had their own labelled bottles, but the mineral waters were concerned with continued to be made at the back, now owned by Nourse & Rowell who at that time were running the Golden Lion already bottling mineral waters there.

Now known as Rowell's Mineral Water Factory, the site on Chapel Lane survived Rowell's death in 1892 and was run by Mrs Rowell until she moved abroad in 1909. After this it was being run by the Watson brothers and known variously as Watsons (Hunstanton) Ltd and the Hunstanton Water Company Ltd – they appear to be contemporaneous

and there are bottles with both names. The Hunstanton Water Company was sold to a bottling business of Kings Lynn (Throwers) in 1924.

SALE OF PROPERTIES.
INGRAM WATSON & SON
ARE instructed by the Hunstanton Mineral Water Co., Ltd. (the business having been sold) to Sell by Auction at the Town Hall (Lower Room), Hunstanton, on
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1924,
at 3.45 in the afternoon precisely.
VALUABLE BUSINESS PREMISES
and 2 FLOOR GARAGE,
in One Lot, comprising:
The spacious buildings known as
THE FACTORY OF THE
HUNSTANTON MINERAL WATER
CO., LTD.,
centrally situate at the rear of Westgate, Hunstanton, having two floors of Factory, mixing room, brewing room, work and store rooms, w.c., cellar, gas and water.
A portion of the property is Freehold and the remaining portion is Leasehold, 99 years from 29th September, 1868. No Ground Rent.
Also the BUILDING OF GARAGE with excellent store over, situate in the same road as the above, at rear of Haydn House. Leasehold 99 years from 25th March, 1894. Apportioned Annual Ground Rent, £1.
Both properties now in occupation of Mr. R. W. Thrower at an Annual Rental of £60.
Further particulars of the Auctioneers, Hunstanton; and
Messrs. PARTRIDGE & Co.,
Vendors' Solicitors, King's Lynn.

1924 Auction Notice

Warehouses / garages at the top of Chapel Lane.
The bottling plant is the building on the left:



The garage at the back of Haydn House (Avenue Road) sold as part of 1924 auction.

The "Throwers" bottling works ran alongside their other factory in Kings Lynn until 1964. There was a wholesale unit kept at that site until 1984.

Chapel Lane today still contains many examples of industrial or business use and strolling uphill on the top section (above Sandringham Road) you will soon come across the site of the mineral water works.

