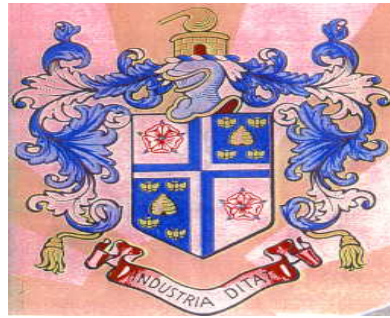




- Widnes name means 'wide nose.'
- It is on the River Mersey and across the river from Runcorn
- Widnes used to be a mainly rural area and people especially aristocracy came here to visit the shores of the River Mersey on day trips and holidays.
- Widnes became a very important town for the chemical industry in the 19th century and this made it very polluted.



- The first chemical works opened in 1847 at **Spike Island**.
- 1847 is in the 19th century
- The chemical industry is now remembered at the Catalyst Museum
- The chemical works in Widnes made lots of different things including **soap**, **borax**, **salt cake** and **bleaching powder**.



Widnes town coat of arms

The red roses represent the Lancashire County connection (Widnes used to be in the county of Lancashire but it is now in Cheshire) and the bees are represent industry.

The furnace on the crest relates to the form of industry for which Widnes was noted for, namely alkali and soap manufacture.



St Luke's Church is the oldest church in Widnes. It was built around 1180 and used to be called St Wilfred's.

Continuity and change - how things have stayed the same or changed over time

Catalyst - A substance that increases the speed of a chemical reaction without undergoing any permanent chemical change itself.

Chemical - A substance, especially one which has been artificially prepared

Aristocracy - The highest class of society

Widnes has had a rugby league team for nearly 150 years. Their historic nickname is "The Chemics" after the main industry in Widnes, but now they use their modern nickname, "The Vikings".



WIDNES VIKINGS

Widnes Rugby League team when they won the Challenge cup in 1930

