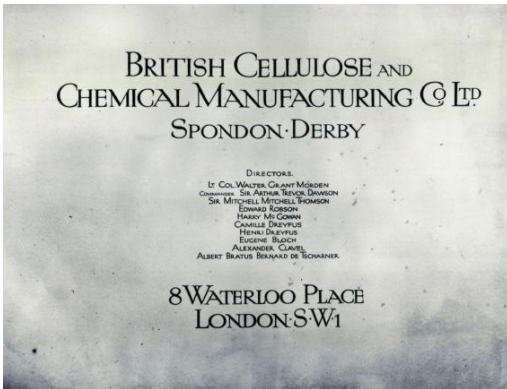


Celanese in Spondon 1916 – 2012



Celanese has been a major employer within the area for almost 100 years. Sadly this comes to an end with the ceasing of production on the 14th November 2012; only Clarifoil will remain employing around 70 staff.

Over the year thousands of people have been employed by the company. If you have any photographs or documents, we would appreciate the opportunity to copy them for our archives.

Early History of Celanese

The British Government invited the Dreyfus brothers to Britain to produce their new aircraft paint. This was needed to coat the fabric used in the World War I bi-planes.



In 1916 the “British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company” was set up and managed by Henry Dreyfus (1882-1944).

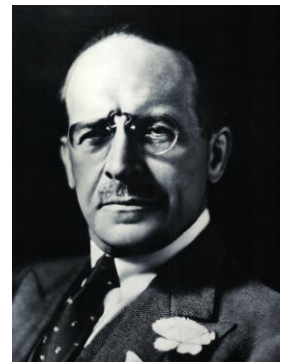
It was built in Spondon, thanks to the work carried out by the Derby Corporation Borough Development Committee.

The minutes of this committee are in the local studies library and show that on the 19th September 1916 the committee granted an honorarium of 100 guineas (£8,000 today) to Mr A W Farnsworth and 50 guineas (£4,000 today) to the Town Clerk in recognition of their special services in connection with the British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing

Company. (Committees yearly expenditure was £300)

In 1918 “The American Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Co” (known as “Amcelle”) was founded in New York by Camille Dreyfus (1879-1956). A factory was built in Cumberland, Maryland. This company is now known as the Celanese Corporation and purchased the British Company in February 2007.

At the time it was known as Acordis, formed from the merger of Courtaulds Fibres and Akzo Nobel Fibres. Courtaulds having bought out British Celanese in 1957.



The factory was built by Robert McAlpine and Sons on land purchased by Derby Corporation. This was part of the land originally purchased for the building of the new sewerage work.

An invoice dated December 1918 shows that painting the buildings on site came to £11,111 (£500,000 in today’s money). This shows a range of buildings including a police and fire station, cottages, there is even a charge for painting a temporary chapel.



Celanese has played a key role in the development of Spondon and the surrounding area. Following the decommissioning of the plant over the next year, the majority of the buildings will be demolished.