

QUINTON VILLAGE PUMP

Until the late 1940's there was no laid on water supply in Quinton. Two gardens had their own well, Manor Cottages and the row of Bakehouse Cottages in Preston Deanery Road.

Everyone else used the Village Pump. This was constructed over the underground stream which started at Moat Pond and ran to Lower Farm, only briefly coming above ground in the field next to September Cottage

The Pump was situated on a grassy triangle of ground at the point where the Church Back Lane meets School Lane (opposite Nola and Pete Collyers' cottage). It had an iron spout and handle and the rest of it was encased in a wooden construction. There were large stones at the base of the pump to stand the buckets on. The first few pumps of the handle brought the water to the surface and the icy cold water could easily soak shoes and socks if the person pumping was not standing well to the side! (Mothers were not always sympathetic to those bringing water home with soaking shoes!) The women always carried two buckets at a time to balance them selves. This water was used for all cooking and laundry, rain water was collected in butts at every cottage provided water for most other things including personal washing. (It was soft water and 'good for the skin')

As the autumn began to turn into winter, the pump put on a winter coat. An old shepherd, who lived in the last in the Bakehouse Row, every year covered the pump in a thick straw coat, tied on with twine to protect it from frost and snow. This old shepherd (who probably was not as old as he seemed at the time) came with his bundles of straw and spent a long time carefully doing this work. He had a white beard and rarely spoke, but had kind eyes. In the spring, off came the straw for the summer. In heavy snows little paths were dug from each cottage door to the pump.

Water was a very precious commodity, not a drop was wasted and was often re-used for several purposes before being used to water the garden. It came up icy cold, clean and sweet and was delicious to drink on a hot summer's day

Frances Piercy.

This photograph is taken in the late 1930's and shows Doreen Hambidge (nee Raine) on the left with a friend at the Village Pump. Behind can be seen. the home of Nola and Pete Collyer in School Lane Quinton. It was in this house that Doreen was born and lived there with her family until moving to Manor Cottages, Quinton while still a child.

