

B.R. Hammond 1970

Mr. J. T. KIRK (Ex-Councillor)
remembers from his boyhood days
60 years ago...

"The Parish Pump situated in Aberford Road was in use until 1923. There was a normal outlet spout for the filling of buckets, also an overhead metal pipe, 7 feet above ground-level for the filling of horse-drawn watercarts for the local farmers use, also for the flushing of drains etc. in the Parish. In my schooldays, we used to visit the Pump during playtime for a drink of water (no such thing as school milk in those days) I remember a number of pumps in the village used to run dry, but never did the Parish Pump cease to supply its cool, clear water!"

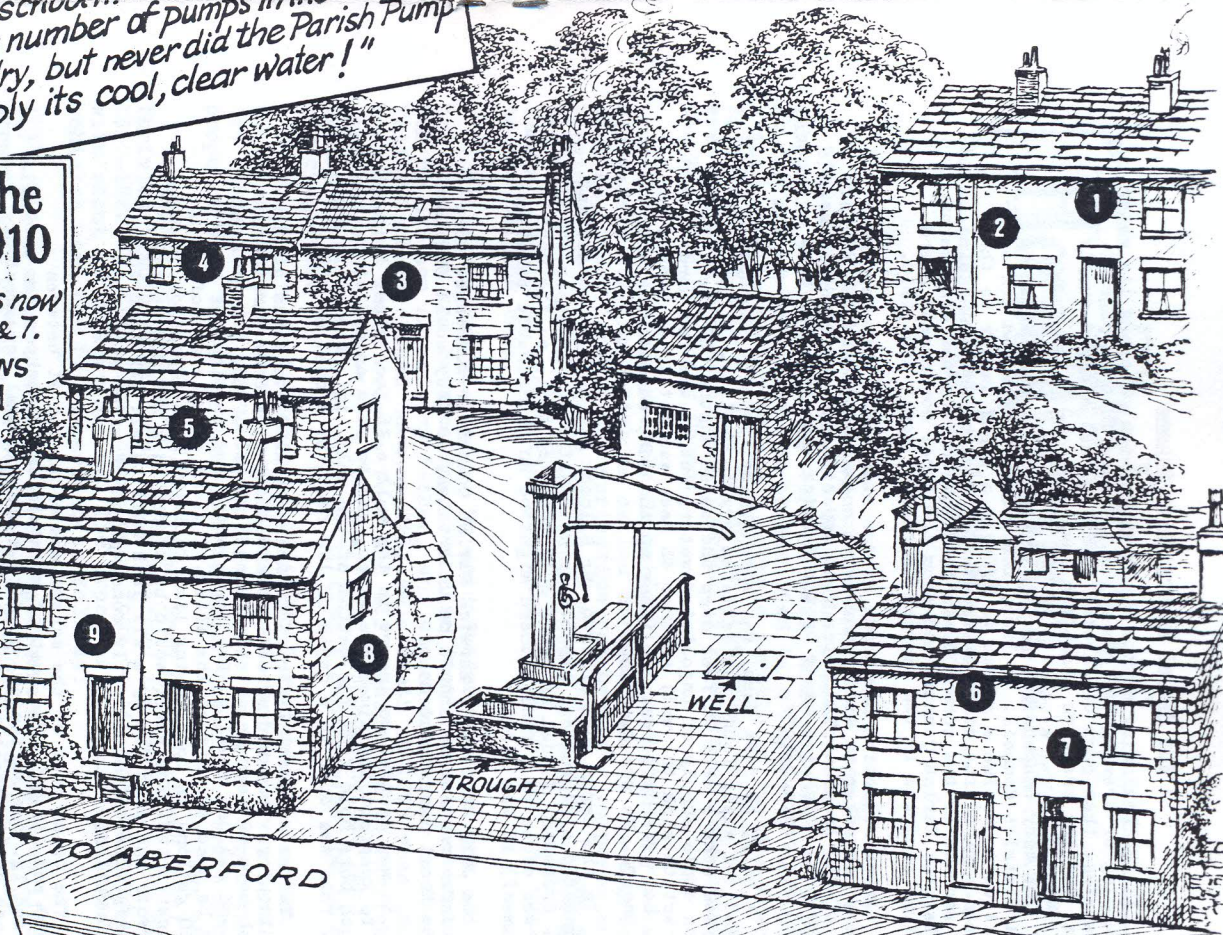
A Glimpse of the Pump Yard in 1910

Occupants of cottages now demolished except 6 & 7.

1. Poulter, 2. Plews
3. Scott, 4. Oldfield
5. Joynes, 6. Day

7. Simpson 8. Jowett
9. Scarfe, 10. Kirk
11. Alf White.

Details by J. T. Kirk
Herbert Kemp &
Wm. Stead
See page 46.



The Parish Pump at Barwick-in-Elmet

One of the fundamental necessities of life being a plentiful supply of water, our forefathers made sure they built their dwellings where it was readily available. This village, which we know was a settlement from earliest times, was no doubt chosen for its natural strategic situation, its prime crop-growing land, and for the many springs and streams which watered it.

In those early days, much of the area around Barwick was marsh, from the then fuller flowing Cock Beck, Potterton and Long Lane Becks. Later, with the development of the village, it became necessary for other water sources to be found. Hence our village pumps came into being. Wells were sunk in farm yards and at every group of cottages. The sites of over 20 wells have been recorded and doubtless there were many more. Barwick's PARISH PUMP, after long years of service was finally removed in 1923, when the village was supplied with mains water. The mains were laid by "pick and shovel" from the Leeds supply.