

Myth or Miracle- Talke's healing well

I have not yet been able to find the mythical Healing Well. Directions say that it is along the Audley road, taking a left after you pass the Dunkirk houses.

Facts about it are vague, some say it is a spring, others say it was a well. People however agree that the water has a bluish tinge and is supposed to be a sweetener of the blood and particularly good at curing skin disorders.

The Second Gird Guide Company found the spring in 1975 and scientific tests revealed that the water may be sulphurous.

Another mythical water site is a hollow in a tree where a similar bluish water collects. According to legend, if it is collected on Good Friday and sieved through muslin it is very good at curing eye disorders.

There are eight other traditional wells in the Talke area, one of them is now the continuously soggy patch of ground at the end of St. Martins road. Others have been built on, such as another well with a bluish tinge that existed where the old Jamage road railway bridge used to be.

The most famous spring is Springhead, to one side of the path that runs down the back of Springhead school. There used to be annual well dressing in Spring. Everyone used to have the day off to dress the well in ribbons and visit the stalls erected for the day. It was allegedly stopped by the rector who was worried about the miners getting drunk!

Until there was mains water, the spring used to provide water for Spout

Hollow behind the King William, but it was declared unfit and connected to the sewage system.

However, again for safety reasons, Springhead has been concreted over as it was often filled with litter. It is a shame to reflect on the efforts many villagers have spent in trying to keep the heritage of Springhead alive.

Talke's link with water continues. Underground reservoirs were built at the top of the hill and Talke almost had its own sewage works built at Hollins farm in the 1970s!



Spring Head just before it was covered