

# Chrishall History Walks

## WALK 3 – WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

### Walk Details



A tour of the pumps, wells and water sources of Chrishall.



1 – 1.5 hours, approximately 6k. Road and footpaths.



Refreshments available at The Red Cow public house in the centre of the village. (Opening hours, see their website at [www.theredcow.com](http://www.theredcow.com))

### Country Code and Disclaimer

*Please keep to public paths, leave gates as you find them, keep dogs under control, take your litter home and take care on roads. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.*

*Chrishall Archive Group have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property.*

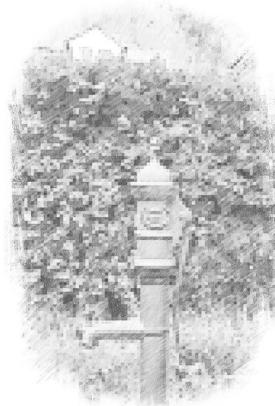
*Surprising as it may now seem, Chrishall did not have running water until 1937...the year that our current Queen's father became King.*

*How did Chrishall get its drinking water before then? Well, by a number of means; some houses had wells, and the village had 5 water pumps.*

*It is not clear when the pumps arrived but probably around the 1850's. The pumps have been preserved. They are all painted green so although they blend in with the background they are quite easy to spot. They were all constructed by G Ingold, engineer, of Bishop Stortford- the firm's marking is easier to see on some, rather than others.*

**Where are the pumps? Well to find all 5 of them, just follow this walk. On route you will also find evidence of the other ways in which the villagers used to get fresh water.**

**1.** The walk starts at Chrishall pavilion on Jigneys playing field and cricket pitch. The pavilion houses the Chrishall archive collection which will be open on the Jubilee weekend and on **26th June, 31st July and 4th September 2022**.



**2.** With your back to the pavilion, turn left and then immediate left to take a path towards the Red Cow pub. When you reach the road, turn right into the High Street and you will almost immediately find the first pump on your right. The markings on this pump are quite clear. As well as providing water to the local houses, the pump would also

have provided water for the Red Cow, which is almost opposite you and to the school, which was in the building to your left as you turned right to find this pump.

**3.** Continue along the road, passing by a thatched cottage with 3 ducks on the roof on the left and a pond on your right. If you look carefully to your right as you pass a 30 mile an hour sign you will see the remains of a tap in the ground. This tap was used by the house diagonally behind you on the other side of the road, called Amber Cottage, as its water supply until the 1970s.

**4.** Continue along the road, passing a white and green cottage called 'Home Farm' on your left. Eventually you will start to leave the houses behind. Just after the sign for the High Street and just before the last house on the right hand side, you will find a seat to commemorate Barbara Kent, who lived in the moated farmhouse just beyond

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the seat. Just to the right of the seat is a concrete structure. This is a covered well. It is reputed to be very deep and may well have been used by Drage and Kent to operate their steam engines.



**5.** Continue along the road and just after the national speed limit sign and before you come to a sign for Hollow Road, you see a lane on your left. This lane is not signed but is known locally as Chalky Lane (in the past it has sometimes been known as White Lane)

**6.** Turn left into the lane and walk down it. You can see

Chrishall church on your right. There is believed to have been a well in the area of the church, but is not clear where it is. Just by the second footpath sign on your left, almost opposite a green painted house on your right (there is only one house in this lane) you will find the second pump. While this pump now appears a bit remote, at the time that it was in use, it wasn't remote. The green house was originally 3 cottages and in the 1911 census there were 14 people living in the building. One of them, Jack Green, recorded his memories of fetching water from the pump as a boy. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the census records 5 dwellings in Chalky (or White) Lane. In 1881 there were 29 people living in what was then called White Lane.

**7.** Continue along the lane as it gradually descends. When it reaches a T junction, turn left.

**8.** Head up the hill into the village. Just after the houses on

the left called Birchgrove and Oaklands, there is a house called 'the Pump House ( which sits between Oakland and to a thatched cottage) You will find the third pump on your right.

**9.** Continue along this road. By the house called the Grange on your right hand side there used to be a tap. Click QR code for a lady, believed to be a Miss Dove who lived in part of the cottage opposite (Mullion Cottage) using the tap. The photo was taken in either the 1950's or 1960's.

**10.** Continue along the road to reach the staggered junction in the centre of the village and the war memorial and the Chrishall signpost.

**11.** At the centre of the village, take the road to your right marked Crawley End. You will immediately pass a pond, then a house called Martinholme on your left. Further on you will pass another pond on your left, and Wire Farm on your right, followed by a seat to Irene

Cranwell on your left (local historian who lived in Faerie Cottage which is almost opposite the village hall) and another pond on your right and then the village hall on your left. You will eventually see a post box on your left and shortly after that you will find the fourth pump on your left, tucked in the side of the road. The name 'The Gables' hangs from the pump. If you look around you, you will see that there are a number of cottages which would have benefitted from the pump at the time it was used.



**12.** Just beyond on the pump, there is a footpath sign on you left. Take the footpath and proceed along it. When it turns from gravel to grass, follow the path to your right (ignore the path that heads straight ahead next to a gate.) . You will find you now have a hedge on your right. The path will bring you to a road. Take care as the ground is uneven.

**13.** When you get to the road, turn left and follow the road downhill, passing Hillside House on your left, until at the bottom of the hill, there is a junction with a signpost pointing towards Chrishall. The road is marked Abrams Lane. Turn left pass some flint cottages. In the 1950s there was a tap here for the use of the cottages. Proceed up the hill passing a house called White Gates on your left. A couple of hundred yards further on you will pass the a Chrishall Sign.

**14.** As the road turns to the right, you will come to a road

junction with a lane on your right signposted Broad Green only. Turn right and follow the lane. Just after a house on your right called Camps Cottage you will find the fifth and last pump on your left. This lane has a number of houses and cottages which would have been benefitted from the pump. At the time of the 1911 census there were 41 people living in Broad Green.

**15.** Continue along this lane ignore the footpath sign just after the pump. Pass a pond on your left. After Sawkins Cottage and just before a cottage called Green Den, take a footpath on your left, which has two metal posts either side of it. You will find yourself on the far side of Jigneys playing field where you started this walk.

**16.** It is highly likely that there were other means of obtaining water in use, especially at Chrishall Grange and Builden End - there is a house at Builden End called Well Cottage.

If you know about any other sources of water please do get in touch.

See the next page for QR codes for further information about some of the places on this walk.



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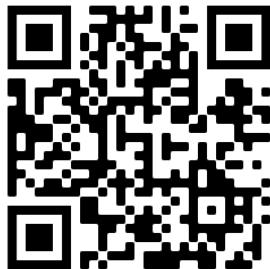
### QR codes for this walk



Point 2. See a picture of the High Street pump with some of the winter cladding still wrapped around it.



Point 9. Click code for a lady, believed to be a Miss Dove who lived in part of the cottage opposite (Mullion Cottage) using the tap.



Point 4. Photographs of some of the Drage and Kent engines at work.



Point 13. Broad Green pump and those who were living in Broad Green.



Point 6. Jack Green – a childhood in Chrishall