

Elsenham Village Snapshots

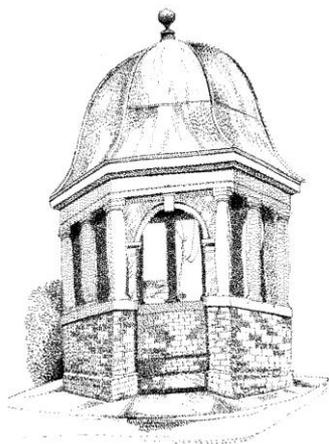
The Pump House, Elsenham High St...

... and Memorial Pump was built in 1896 by Sir Walter Gilbey over the Village well as a memorial to his wife who had died earlier that year aged 63. At this time Sir Walter was also building the Post Office which stands behind the Pump House on the right side of Park Road and Lyttleton that stands to the left.



Elsenham Pump House c.1933 with the then Post Office behind

The shaft was dug by George Ingold who had dug many wells in the area.



A sketch of the Pump House

Originally dug eighty-three feet deep it was then bored considerably deeper. No-one knows for sure just how deep the shaft goes but estimates range from 120 to 150 feet.

The dome was originally covered in gold leaf and must have looked most resplendent. Some idea can be gained from the photograph above. During the second World War, the dome was covered up lest it become a landmark for enemy bombers converging on London.

The pump served the Village until the late 1950s when the shaft showed signs of collapse and the pump was deemed too dangerous to use. The pump itself was removed and a concrete cap placed over the shaft. The only part of the pump still extant is its handle.

The building was maintained by the Gilbey Trust until the Autumn of 2016 at which time the local Parish Council took over responsibility for its upkeep.



The Pump House in 2009