

## **A Record of open drains that ran into the brook in Bugbrooke before the water and sewer was laid on in the early 1950s.**

Before the laying of piped water and a sewerage system into the village of Bugbrooke, there were several open ditches or sewers, that ran directly into the brook, starting from upstream of the village, the first one that took the top water and detritus from the Camp Hill area and Pilgrims lane and the top end of the high street, including the Dower House, Mr Harry Lovell's Butchers Shop along with all the detritus from killing animals such as water mixed with animals blood etc.

The drain passed under Browns Farm yard at the bottom of Camp Hill, picking up other unmentionable detritus on its way to a open ditch next to where the footpath and stile is at the end of the boundary wall to the Dower House, (where the cricket pavilion now stands), from there it ran into the brook next to the boundary hedge to the now cricket field, and the Wheel Pits field, purple and black fluids constantly permeated into the stream at this point, if and when it rained hard, the aroma was something else to experience, as well as the colour it turned the stream into.

The second open drain ran from a Pond that was next to the boundary of the now cricket field and Doctor Whites Orchard at the back of Browns Yard, it not only took waste from the farm such as waste water from washing down the Dairy etc, but from all the houses up the yard called Sunny Side, Quaker Yard, Moore's farm, and from most of the houses in the vicinity of Elm Tree Bank, it ran open from this pond down the side of an Orchard whereby it entered the stream opposite the row of sandstone house that run adjacent to the stream, down West End.

The Brook Bridge in West End downstream on the Western side of the bridge was a third culvert that ran from all the houses within the West End of this part of the Village.

The fourth large culvert downstream was next to footbridge in Little Lane, now called Ace Lane, this took waste from the Grange, all the houses in Kiln Yard as well of those at the top of the road, including Tarry's Yard, The Bakers Arms, and all the houses within the vicinity, including all the waste and detritus from Collings's butchers shop, that was to the rear of the houses opposite the Bakers Arms.

The fifth open drain ran from the back of Gilkes Yard, into the stream, including the Bake House, Blacksmith Shop, Adams Farm Yard, and Smarts Farm Yard, and from most of the house within the vicinity.

The Sixth open drain ran along in front of the Orchard, of Orchard House in Church Lane, there were two large pipes that ran into this ditch, that took waste from Bugbrooke School area the Coop and all the house opposite, it ran into the brook upstream from the bridge, and dead opposite was another open drain than ran from the Church, the Five Bells and all the house within the vicinity, not forgetting the Slaughter house that once stood in front of the Five Bells, for at one time the Public house once stood in a yard behind several houses, and could hardly be seen from the road side.

Where both of these drains ran into the brook it was just a pan of purple and black smelly oozing mud, its aroma was a lot to be desired especially on hot summer days.

There was a seventh drain that ran from the back of The Byre and Home Farm, as well as from the houses adjacent to this area, including Manor Farm and dairy etc.

During the hot summer months, dozens of families with all the children would go upstream into the Wheel Pits Field to paddle and mess about as they all did on a regular basis, this field was nick named Bugbrooke, s Riviera, the small shop in this part of the village did well with trade with folks doing so.

I was told at one time barges full of human excrement from the Cities were unloaded and tipped down the canal bank into the Wheel Pits field next to where the swing bridge used to be, one can still see where if you get your eye in with the contours of the land where they did so, or the colour of the soil shows as to where when being ploughed etc.

Stanley Joseph Clark,