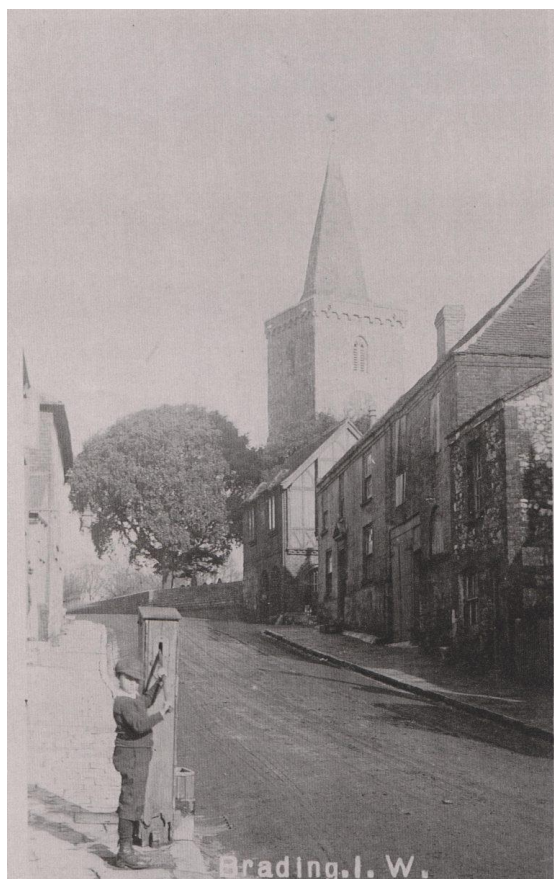


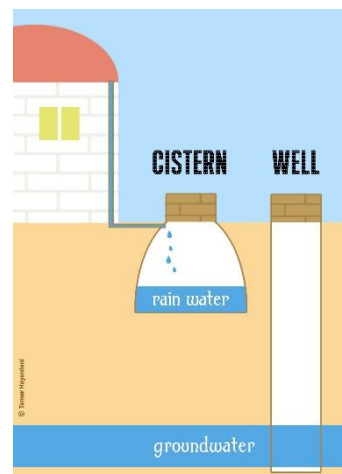
# Brading Town Book 1845 - Wells 1



*A water pump in Brading High Street*

## How did people get fresh water in the 1840s?

Most people didn't have piped water in their houses. Many middle-class families had their own wells dug in the grounds of their home so that they could access underground spring water. They were usually about a metre wide and ten metres deep.



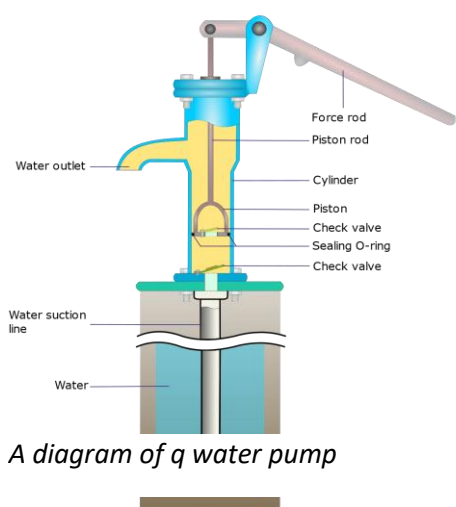
Spring water from shallow wells could be contaminated from leaking or overflowing cesspools from privies (outdoor toilets) and this could cause outbreaks of diseases like typhoid and cholera.

Spring water wasn't very good for washing clothes as it was hard, so people also collected water from the roof in tanks or cisterns.

Not everyone had the luxury of their own well. They had to use a shared well in the street. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

a pump was usually connected to the well.

The **Public Health (Water) Act of 1878** stated each parish had a responsibility to see that “any occupied dwelling-house within their district, has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house.”



*A diagram of a water pump*

This led to an increase in the number of water pumps in towns.

Before pumps were built above wells people used buckets to pull water out.

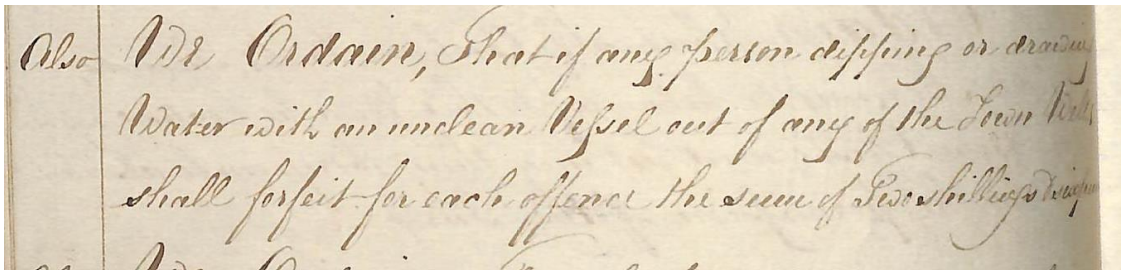


*A pump outside Rectory Mansions*

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This is an entry from the Brading Town Book in 1845. Can you read the original scan and transcription?



Also We Ordain, That if any person dipping or drawing  
Water with an unclean Vessel out of any of the Town Wells  
shall forfeit for each offence the sum of Two shillings and  
sixpence

Also- We Ordain, That if any person dipping or drawing Water out of any of the Towns Wells shall forfeit for each offence the sum of Two shillings and sixpence

### Things to think about

- Why was it important that dirty vessels or buckets weren't put into wells?
- Why might they have removed one of the pumps in the Hight Street in 1914?
- Find out about the Broad Street cholera outbreak in 1854. How did the disease spread to the streets nearby?

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