

A HISTORY OF HAYFIELD WATER SUPPLY

A COLLECTION OF MISCELANEOUS ARTICLES - Unsubstantiated Information

Converted to text by John Simpson using OCR Dec 2022 Revision 1- 12 01 2023

Extracts from Pam Gee's Book – Kinder People (undated but must be available)

His (*Pam Gee's Grandfather*) lasting memorial, Harry Moor water supply is an interesting story and few people are aware as they ramble over the paths that there are hidden storage tanks below ground. This pure, sweet, untouched water has never failed or even dwindled in times of drought and until recently was taken very much for granted. That the E .E .C. regulations should threaten our water roused the whole of the area into action and produced a village petition.

In 1923, the council's water surveyor gauged the flow to be more than 400,000 gallons a day, easily filling the huge storage tanks on Kinder Bank without the need of pumping equipment and supplying districts as far away as Mellor and Ludworth.

The last of the Bennetts to live at the farm were a childless couple who were persuaded to sell the property and land to New Mills Council after an argument over proposed water rights with Stockport. An anxious group, hot foot from a London meeting, woke up Mr Bennett to offer him a "great deal of money" to sell the family home to preserve Harrymoor's water.

Extracts from Edmund Houghton's Notes 1971

.... with confidence it can be said that the greatest service Mr. Gee rendered to Hayfield as public man was to secure for the village the water at Harrymoor. When Stockport Corporation promoted their First Parliamentary Bill to impound the water at Kinder, Hayfield had no water scheme, although the question had often been discussed in Council — it was still dependant on wells for all its water. Stockport's entry into Kinder put the Council into a quandary and it seemed as if the village would have to buy its own water from an outside authority, with millions of gallons of its own water passing through the village. Mr. Gee knew the source of all the water in Kinder — he saw that Harrymoor was not included in the Stockport gathering ground and he persuaded the Council to get possession — (but this is another exciting story) and to this day (1971) this spring has never failed, so that one can say with safety that through the far-seeing eye of Mr Gee, Hayfield has one of the finest, cheapest, most abundant and regular supplies of water in the country.

The Battle to Preserve Harrymoor (undated and unknown author)

The Scan is missing words on the left hand margin. Guesses in []

Harrymoor water scheme has always aroused considerable interest, [it] is indeed surprising that Hayfield could get such a magnificent [supply] of water, when Stockport was already in possession of the Kinder [and] Sett valleys. It is a most interesting story of a public authority, {that was} once was too slow and too late, retrieved the position magnificently,

[and] carried out one of the smartest pieces of work ever accomplished by [a sm]all council.

When Stockport Corporation appeared on the Kinder scene, Hayfield [Coun]cil possessed not a drop of water — the public depended for all their [supp]lies on the Wells, of which the village had a considerable number - [..n] water provided by landlords, from springs. Some people can yet [reme]mber when, as youngsters, they had the burdensome duty of carrying [the] daily water supply from the various wells.

Hayfield was bound, in order to get water for the village to [oppo]se the Stockport Corporation Bill. Hayfield Council, asked the [Coun]cil of New Mills to join them, so as to get joint terms and reduce [expens]es, but New Mills declined to do so. Mellor also withdrew from the [schem]e, and Hayfield, a village less than 3,000 population left to [oppose] a huge County Borough like Stockport — then large enough to have [?] s. It was a tremendous undertaking, but be it said, to the credit (of t)he Hayfield Council of that day, which had often talked about water [from] Harrymoor, but done nothing, they faced the music courageously. [They] were admirably advised by their clerk, Mr. J. R. Bowden, then a very [youn]g solicitor, who had not long held the office of clerk.

[The 1901] Stockport Bill came first before the House of Lords Committee, [and] on examining the plans, Hayfield Council discovered, that the valuable [?]ng of water on Harrymoor which had often been talked about, [was] not included in the area, that Stockport proposed as their gathering [grou]nd. A deputation formed and off to London at once — a hurried [consul]tation held at the House of Lords, the upshot being was, that [the] deputation of Hayfield Council and their Clerk came back, post haste [to] Hayfield. They got to the house of the late Mr. Thomas Bennett of [?]stead at Midnight. Mr Bennett was aroused from his sleep and told [of the] position in which the Council found themselves in the House of Lords.

Wybersley Water Treatment Works (information Board 2012)

In 1996 North West Water, now United Utilities, decommissioned Kinder's original filter house, and opened a brand new state-of- the-art treatment works called Wybersley Water Treatment Works in High Lane, nr Stockport.

Before the creation of this large purpose-built treatment works, three individual works at Lyme Park, Goyt Valley and Kinder Reservoirs treated the main water supply for the Stockport area. Water from Kinder Reservoir supplies the new works via the original 27" cast iron main and together with sources from Lyme Park and the Goyt Valley help supply large areas of South Manchester with excellent clean potable water.

Since commissioning in 1996, Wybersley WTW continues to provide up to 70 million litres of drinking water per day, enough for 340,000 people. Kinder Reservoir still supplies 18 million litres of this

water per day, helping to supply Hayfield, New Mills, Hazel Grove, Stockport and Whaley Bridge with drinking water.

Hayfield and Kinder Scout by James Garside (undated)

Waterworks

Underground works for supplying the parishes of Hayfield and Mellor are constructed in Harrymoor on the south-western slope of Kinder Scout, and collected into a small chamber at 1,305 O.D., from which it is conveyed by an iron main to a huge tank capable of holding 25,000 gallons of water, on Kinder Bank. From this tank the water is divided between Hayfield and Mellor. The inhabitants of the two -parishes are assured of a constant supply of fresh and pure water, which never sees daylight until it issues from the household tap..