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## Village pump that won't dry up

HEMPSTEAD is making a big effort to restore its old village pump, one of the few in England still in good working order and able to give a non-stop water supply.

The 6ft tall brick supporting tower is crumbling away and there is a leak. It has got to the stage where either it has to be done away with altogether restored.

The parish council wants to see the pump remain because it is a real relic of the village. They have applied to the Civic Trust for a grant and will be grateful for donations.

Standing at the bottom of Church Road close to the village centre, beside the pond and horse trough, the pump is fed by springs and has never been known to dry up, according to Mrs Margaret Drane of Treetops, Hempstead.

"I can just remember it being used by the whole village in the late 1930's until Hempstead got piped water," said Mrs Drane, who has lived in the village all her life.



Schoolboy David Grimster at the old Hempstead pump which the village wants to restore.

"My father used to carry water home in yokes and people had all sorts of contraptions to get the water to their homes. It is good wholesome water too — so rich in iron it turns buckets rusty.

"Even at times of high drought when the pond and streams are dried out the pump still runs with

water. It is fed by persistent underground springs. In the 1921 drought everything else dried up, we had to ration the pump water and locked it to stop other villages taking it.

"It would be a real shame to see it go not only because it is part of the village history but it also gives us an emergency water supply."

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