HISTORY OF THE SHARDLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER UNDERTAKING.

"This interesting history of the Council's undertaking has been compiled by Mr. F. Haynes who retired from the post of Water Manager in 1956 after forty-three years' service.

The sketch map of the system has been prepared by Mr. D. E. Jowett who was appointed successor to Mr. Haynes.

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"When 1 first entered the service of Shardlow Rural District Council in 1913, there were three Public Water Supplies serving the Area.

1. STAPLEFORD & SANDIACRE JOINT WATER SUPPLY.

Originally the scheme was operated by a private company. They constructed a pumping station, sank a well in the Bunter Sandstone, a service reservoir with a capacity of 70,000 gallons at Risley Lane, Sandiacre and laid $11^1/_2$ miles of mains. In 1889 this private company became a public water company and was known as the Stapleford and Sandiacre Water Company Limited composed of elected members for Stapleford and Sandiacre. Before Shardlow R.D.C. took over in 1931, this water company extended and developed the original scheme considerably. They converted the steam pumping plant to diesel and electrically driven pumps, constructed a service reservoir in Risley Park (capacity 100,000 gallons) and, in order to soften the hard local water, they bought daily 45,000 gallons from the Derwent Valley Water Board and mixed the waters in the Risley Reservoir.

In 1931, the Nottingham City Corporation obtained control of the Stapleford Section. At the same time the District Council took over the responsibility of supplying Sandiacre Parish. Ultimately, in 1937, this scheme was linked with other schemes which had mean time been developing in Shardlow R.D.C. area.

2. MELBOURNE WATER SCHEME.

Particulars of the beginning of this scheme are not available, but there was a scheme in operation approximately 65 years ago. From verbal accounts given by residents, I gather that the water was drawn from the Long Eaton Urban District Council's 12in. Trunk main at King's Newton, and was distributed by variously sized mains

throughout Melbourne and King's Newton. The water drawn from the Long Eaton Authority's supply pipe was very hard. There was, and still is, a small brick storage tank in the garden of "Bleak House," Derby Hills. The scheme was under the control of a Melbourne Parochial Committee, subject to Shardlow R.D.C. The financial side of the scheme was under District Council supervision. As a result of local dissatisfaction with the water, the District Council was consulted and they instructed their Engineers, Messrs. Elliott & Brown of Nottingham, to advise on a new water supply. A borehole was put down at Bog Lane, Derby Hills, where the water was at first good and plentiful, 10,000 gallons per hour being raised by air lift system. This supply deteriorated, as did many other underground supplies, during the long drought period of 1934-36, and it became necessary to obtain water elsewhere. Therefore a link-up was made between the Sandiacre and Joint Parishes Mains, and Melbourne at Borrowash. Water was pumped from Sandiacre into the main, passing through Borrowash, Elvaston, Chellaston and thence to Melbourne. The water thus obtained was used, temporarily to relieve the shortage at Melbourne. This situation persisted until 1937, when the Little Eaton pumping station was opened and the reservoir at "Drum Hill" was brought into use.

3. STANLEY AND WEST HALLAM WATER SCHEME.

Prior to 1905 inhabitants of Stanley and West Hallam depended for water on springs and shallow wells, but when the Stanley Pit shaft was put down by the Mapperley Colliery Company, water in the shallow wells disappeared. The excess water encountered in the Pit shaft was pumped into the Stanley Brook from where people who had lost their supply had to fetch it. The quantity of water pumped from the colliery shaft was assessed at 250,000 gallons per day. It was now necessary for a reliable water supply to be provided for the Stanley and West Hallam sector. The local District Council Representatives suggested that the waste water at the colliery should be used to provide a piped water supply for the two parishes. Thus was started Stanley and West Hallam Joint Water Scheme. A reservoir was constructed at Smalley Common, (capacity 90,000 gallons). Water was pumped by the Colliery Company up to this reservoir whence it was distributed through the mains to any who applied for it. 'This water was not of the best quality, having a temporary hardness of 29.60. After 1937 this sector received all the water required of the mixed Little Eaton Boreholes and Derwent Valley Waters from "Drum Hill" reservoir. The water from the Colliery has not since

been used, although during the 1939-45 war period it provided an emergency stand-by supply.

SEVEN PARISH JOINT WATER SCHEME.

A scheme to provide water supplies for the following seven parishes: Aston-on-Trent, Breaston, Draycott, Chellaston, Elvaston and Ockbrook and Shardlow was laid down in 1926-27. Up to this time the inhabitants had depended for water supplies on wells, but owing to the rapid industrial development of this part of the rural district it became necessary to provide a reliable piped supply. A reservoir (capacity 500,000 gallons) was constructed at Dunn's Hill, Ockbrook, through which was passed a daily quantity of 50,000 gallons. This quantity has been raised from time to time as demands for water increased. This Dunn's Hill Reservoir was linked with the "Drum Hill" reservoir when the latter was brought into commission in 1937.

OLD SAWLEY WATER SCHEME.

In 1927 an agreement was entered into with the Long Eaton Urban District Council permitting the Shardlow Rural District Council to make a connection to their 12in. trunk main in Tamworth Road, Old Sawley. Water mains of 3in. diameter were laid throughout the village. The daily quantity of water drawn from the L.E.U.D.C. main did not exceed 20,000 gallons and was a mixture of water drawn from Stanton-by-Bridge and Derwent Valley. Water storage for the parish was covered by the U.D.'s Castle Donington Reservoir. A few years later, 1933-35, the parish was transferred to Long Eaton.

KIRK HALLAM WATER SCHEME.

In 1928 an agreement was entered into with the Ilkeston Corporation permitting the District Council to make a connection to the Corporation's supply main at Little Hallam. A 3in. diameter water main was laid through the village as far as "Bunker's Hill Cottages" on the Ladywood Lane. The source of the water drawn from Ilkeston was the Ilkeston and Heanor Water Board's Merebrook supply. This parish was merged with the Borough of Ilkeston at 1933-35 revision of boundaries.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACT, 1944.

Under this Act, the District Council was able to submit to the Ministry of Health plans for the laying of mains for the general

improvement of water supplies in the district. These were made up as follows : —

(a) 1946-48. 9in. main from Noah's Ark Borrowash to London Road, Elvaston.

(b) 1947-48. 9in. main from Dale Abbey via Stanton-by-Dale - Sandiacre. Also the construction of a service reservoir (500,000 gallons capacity) at Stanton Road, Sandiacre, and a length of 4in. main along " No man's" Lane from Lodge Farm, Dale Abbey to Park Farm, Risley.

(c) 1947-50. 4in. mains from Risley to Breaston - Draycott to Shardlow - Shardlow to Aston-on-Trent.

(d) 1953-54. 4in. and 3in. mains from Chellaston to Lea Farm, Sinfin Moor.

(e) 1954. 4in. main from Wilne Lane to London Road and Aston Lane, Shardlow.

All these extensions of mains were made -

(1) To complete an alternative route of supply on the eastern side of the District.

(2) To provide supplies for sections of the district previously without an adequate supply of drinking water,

In 1937 all these water schemes, with the exception of Kirk Hallam and Old Sawley, were merged into one. They all, except for Melbourne, which draws a part supply only, draw their total water supplies from the Drum Hill Reservoir. This reservoir receives water from the Little Eaton Boreholes and the Derwent Valley Aqueduct. Hamlets at Morley, Morley Moor—Lime Lane, Morley, Draycott Hospital and Long Eaton Co-operative Society's farms, Hopwell Lane and Sawley Grange Farm, are supplied direct from the Derwent Valley Aqueduct. The quantities drawn at the various points are included in the total daily quantities agreed with the Derwent Valley Water Board, of 805,000 gallons. The total value of the Shardlow Water Schemes at March 31st, 1955 was £245,877/7s./6d. and the total revenue £32,653/19s./7d.

In conclusion I would say that a water manager's job is usually considered a comfortable, safe one, but it certainly has its hazards. For instance, I have twice been nearly drowned, once in a reservoir and once down a well; have been threatened with a loaded gun in the hands of an irate drunken farmer; once been chased by a wolfhound, which nearly had me for his dinner, (some dinner!); once been nearly strangled in a deep meter chamber into which I slipped head downwards; once been gassed with chlorine and once had the police on my trail trying to round me up as a witness. Add to this, being chased by a savage bull while I was advising a farmer on agricultural water supply, and you have a very realistic version of a Water Manager's job. Oh I nearly forgot that I once nearly lost Mr. Woodward Senior down the borehole at Little Eaton, when a hinge on one of the grids covering the sump broke and let him through! The projecting flanges on the pump suction, however, saved the situation.

I would like to thank all those who have been associated with me for their co-operation during the development and expansion of public water supply during the years of my long service with the Shardlow Rural District Council."

WATER SUPPLIES,

The quantity of water supplied in the Shardlow water area during the year ended March 31st, 1956, was as follows : —

Domestic supplies	305,035,076 gallons.
Metered supplies	84,422,000 gallons.

The domestic consumption is equivalent to 27.5 gallons per head per day of population supplied.

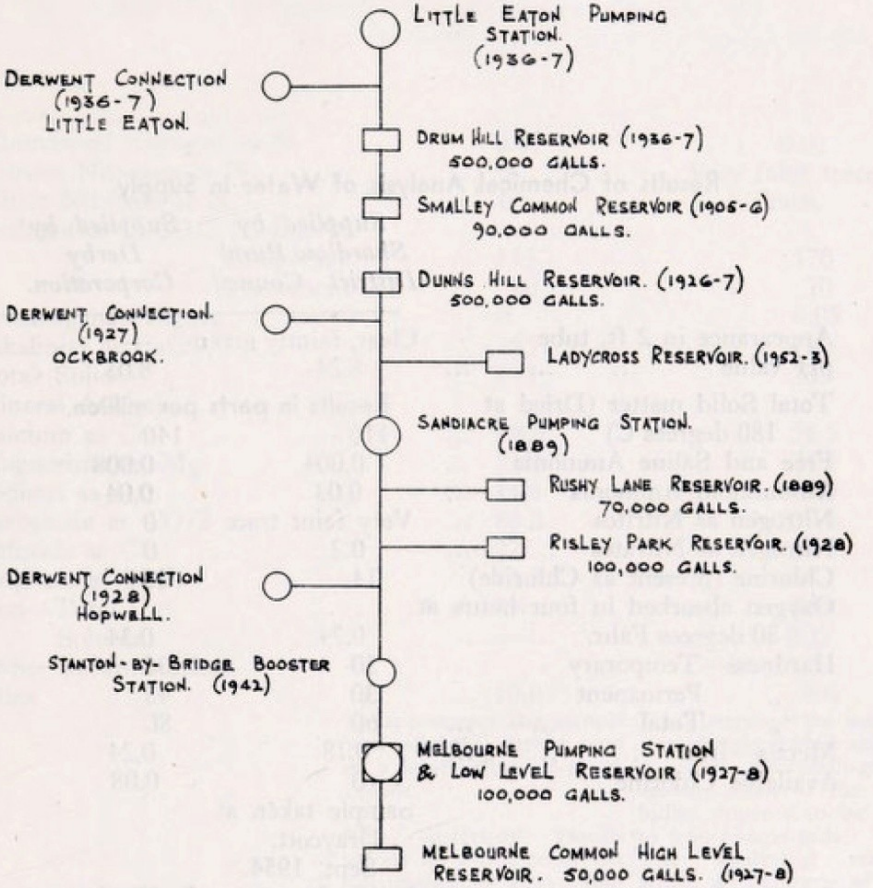
NOTES:
Risley Lane Res - aka Rushy Lane
Little Eaton pumping station - aka Coxbench Borehole,
Drum Hill Reservoir – aka Little Drum Hill.
Stanton Rd Res – aka Ladycross

DECEMBER 1966.

SHARDLOW R. D. C.

WATER SUPPLIES.

SKETCH PLAN OF PUMPING STATIONS AND RESERVOIRS.



D. E. JOWETT.
WATER MANAGER.