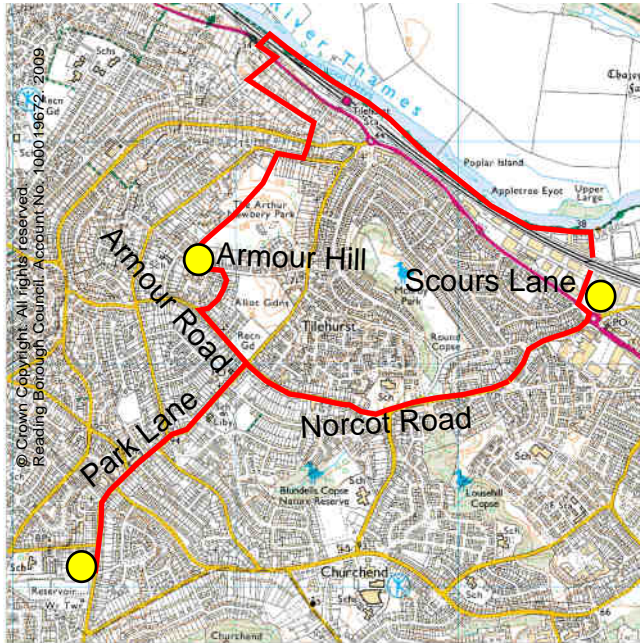


Where you can find the troughs



Take a walk round the troughs and include part of the Thames Path

Start at the trough in Armour Hill (opposite the thatched cottage and Armour Walk) and then walk down through the Arthur Newbery Park to the Oxford Road. Go over the railway line using the new footbridge by the old Roebuck pub. Then walk along the Thames Path to Scours Lane, where you will find the second trough.

This part of the walk will take about 1½ hours.

After that walk or catch a bus up Norcot Road to the Water Tower, where you will find the third and last of the Tilehurst drinking troughs.

Issue 1 February 2015

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association was founded in 1859 by Samuel Gurney, who was a nephew of Elizabeth Fry. Originally the association was called the Metropolitan Free Drinking Association.

The main purpose of the association was to ensure a free supply of pure drinking water to help eradicate both cholera and intemperance in the city. The first fountain was installed by St Sepulchre's in Snow Hill.

A few years later, drinking troughs for dogs and cattle were added to the commitments of the association. The association maintained these troughs until recently, but now they have been handed over to the local councils.

In Tilehurst there are three such troughs as described in this leaflet.

globe

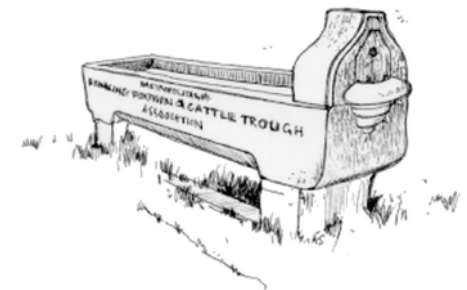
Go Local On a Better Environment

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In and around Tilehurst



Drinking Fountains and Cattle Troughs



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Park Lane
By the Water Tower



The inscription on the road side reads:
"Metropolitan Drinking Fountain
& Cattle Trough Association"

In small letters on the right it says:
"70 Victoria Street S.W."
which is where the MDFCTA was located.



The inscription on the Water Tower side reads:
"George and Annis Bills - Australia".
The Bills were a couple who went to Australia and there established a number of troughs. On a visit back to England they donated money to the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association for six troughs to be made and installed.

Armour Hill
By the entrance to Arthur Newbery Park



The siting of the cattle troughs would obviously be where cattle had a need for water. Often the troughs are to be found on the old trails where the cattle were moved to or from markets. Running down through Mclroys Park is the ancient path which is referred to as the Drove. This path meets up with Gypsy Lane which is approximately at the bottom of Armour Hill, so the top of the hill would be a practical position for the cattle to receive water.

This trough, and the one at Park Lane, have trays under the main trough which were added to allow smaller animals to drink.

The inscription on this trough is:
"Be kind to all God's creatures"
which is a theme on many of the troughs.

Scours Lane
By Norcot Roundabout



This trough would have been sited on the route to and from the market, which used to be in Great Knollys Street. Cattle would have been driven out along the Oxford Road or up the hill out through Norcot. On this route there is another trough by the Central Swimming Pool which would also have been used by cattle going to and from market.



The inscription is now very faint, but it reads:
"In Memory of
Katharine and George Clerke
Colliston
February 1911".

The Collistons were a family who lived in South Africa and who also donated money to the MDFCTA. A trough in Bagshot, Surrey, has a similar inscription though the date on that one is February 1910.