

"There's a hole in my garden, dear Liza ..."
or "The Puzzle of the Hole in an Albion Road Garden"

The Trust's archivist was recently approached by a gentleman from Albion Road, reporting a strange hole that had been discovered at the bottom left corner of a long garden next door to him. On investigating, it was found to be 22 feet deep and almost three feet wide at the top, widening out to over six feet at the base. The top few feet were brick-lined, but this gave way to bare chalk about a quarter of the way down the shaft.

The first thought was a well, but its shape and location did not fit this idea. The next suggestion was a cesspit, as there were two or three large pipes opening into it, and its position - as far from the house as possible - seemed a sensible place to dig such a pit. However, it has only a small amount of debris at the base, so was almost certainly not used for such a purpose. This may have been because the occupants were put onto mains water soon after they took up residence (in about 1895).

If anyone has any other ideas - or definitely knows what it was, the neighbour and new owners would be delighted to hear. Send any information via the Museum or Jennie Burgess.

