

THE FOUNTAIN IN BIRCHINGTON SQUARE

The fountain was first placed in the centre of the Square in 1909, when Alderman Robert Grant donated it to the village in memory of his wife. There was some controversy about this position, because one of the Parish Councilors was certain that the increase in volume and size of traffic through the Square was going to find the fountain an obstacle. What prophetic words those were. The whole structure was surmounted by a gas lamp – a very new innovation at the time. Besides the fountain in the centre, there were also two horse troughs.



By 1914-15 it needed to be moved much nearer to the Powell Arms, where it remained for about another 10-15 years. However, this position also began causing problems, so in about 1930 it was moved over to just outside the Queen's Head, where it has since remained. Sometime during one of these moves, the lamp on the top was removed. So, too, was one of the horse troughs.

It received a much-needed face-lift in 2000-2001, with the help of Alf Bedwell, Peter Francis, Roger Walford and several others. The Parish Council funded the cost of a new lamp – which, sadly, is only for cosmetic appearances this time.