

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB



TOBERBAWN HOLY WELL

Toberbawn, a spring situated close to Deans Grange stream, and approached by a right-of-way from Pottery Road was lost when it was covered over and drained by Dublin County Council in the laying out their public park in the 1970s.

The name was locally pronounced Tobrabawn, and among the folk traditions were variations of a story that it had disappeared from Kill of the Grange Convent lands and resurfaced at its final position.

There was a horse-shoe shaped ring of stones around the well with its opening facing the stream. The water from the spring formed a pool, and flowed into the stream over a slab or kerb across the opening. As well as providing domestic water, people sought cures for eye problems at the well and hung the cloths used to bathe their eyes on a nearby 'May bush' or hawthorn.

Holy medals were also hung on the bush and there was a small altar with a statue of Our Lady beside the well. People said the rosary there, but there was no patron saint, no special pattern day or no ceremonies organised by the clergy.

Text and Picture: Liam Clare