

The Holy Well, Bedmond



Breakspear Farm, Bedmond, c1910. *Photo: Parish Archive*



Members of ALLHS observe the pond fed by the spring. *Photo: Eve Durnall*

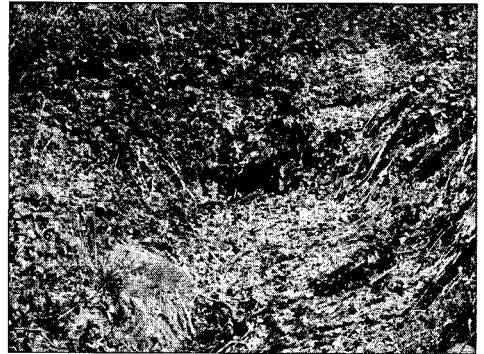


Holy well at Breakspear Farm. Painted by N. Trent RA, 1906.
Photo: Parish Archive



Possibly the same spring? *Photo: Harriet Mann*

Earlier this year, members of the Abbots Langley Local History Society visited a Bedmond spring, anecdotally referred to as the “Holy Well”, with the kind permission of the landowner. Now on private property, this location was originally part of the land of Breakspear Farm which was the birthplace of Nicholas Breakspear. He was born in about 1100 and in 1154 became the only English-born Pope (Pope Adrian IV).



A close-up of the spring. *Photo: Tim Brooks*

Legend has it that the spring became a source of holy water with healing properties, especially for the eyes, and there is anecdotal evidence that religious pilgrims journeyed to Bedmond to visit this “Holy Well”.

although the story itself seems perfectly feasible.

The Abbots Langley Local History Society are investigating this legend and have not yet found any witnesses or written proof that these visits to the Holy Well occurred,

We would be very interested to learn of any evidence or references that may substantiate the legend. If you have any information, please contact the Editor.