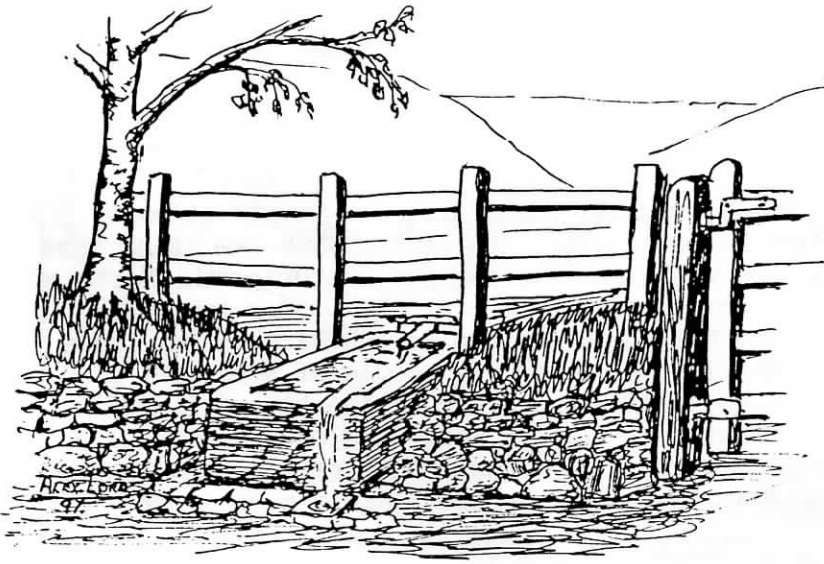


Mains electricity had not reached Chipping so we had paraffin storm lamps for outside and in the barn and shippon, and stand lamps in the house. The wicks had to be kept trimmed and if it was a bit draughty (as was often the case!) the light would flare up and blacken the lamp glass funnel. Then it was candle light until the lamp glass cooled and could be cleaned and the lamp lit again. We had saucer-like candle holders for carrying around the house and into the bedrooms. The youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was quite enterprising and procured a mantle lamp on a stand. It had a pump attached to build up pressure to cause the mantle to produce a brilliant white light. She found this very useful for her dressmaking, and a help for the other sisters while sewing, knitting and making peg rugs and patchwork quilts in the winter evenings.

We had the Preston Guardian, a weekend newspaper for all the family in those days. The Lancashire Daily Post was delivered early next morning by postman Richard Kenyon, on his walk to Saddle and Burnslack and back through Leagram, before helping his brother John with the tailoring. I did some correspondence courses, in drawing and in elementary Latin and Greek, which I taught to Boxer while working away in the fields.



Although piped water supply came from springs on Saddleside above where we lived, and went down the road past the farm gate to the village, we had no piped water or taps on the farm. Our supply came from a spring and down a field drain pipe to a large stone trough in the farm yard at the back of the house. This provided water for both cattle and people. In a dry season if the supply was short, we were able to let water in from the field pit, which gave it a bit of flavour. Our supply continued down a further field drainage system to supply Harling Farm, where Mr Whalley's brother John and his family lived.

We also had a large water butt which stood by the double door at the back of the house and caught the rain water from most of the roof. This butt-water, when boiled, was acceptable for tea-making and cooking, until in warm weather it bred midges and had to be abandoned. This rain water was used mostly for washing clothes and hands and face, being lovely and soft. Some of the overflow from the trough and water-butt went by drain under the house and into the field drains, as did the waste water from the house. This supply and disposal would obviously be condemned today.



However we were all in good health. Every member of the Whalley family lived well into their seventies or eighties, and Elizabeth (Lizzie) died last year aged 98.