

# EYNESHAM STREET NAMES

[first published in *The Eynsham Record* 3, 1986]

by Eynsham Primary School History Group<sup>i</sup>

*One of the projects the late Edward Hibbert had in mind was to explore the origins of the street names of Eynsham. This seemed to be a suitable topic for the Eynsham Primary School History Group. We have collated opinion, tradition and fact to produce what we hope will be a useful tool for others to use. When specific research has been done by an individual, the name appears in square brackets at the end of the entry.*

Abbreviations and credits – see final page.

**Abbey Place** - formerly Abbey Terrace (O.S. Oxon XXXII.7 1876) on land known as Abbey Court, see E.R. No 6 on John Whiting's Survey of Eynsham, 1650. Present housing complex built 1964/5.

**Abbey Street** - formerly Mill Street. Name first recorded after the 17th century (V.C.H. Oxon. vol.12).

Abbey Terrace - see Abbey Place.

**Acre End Street** - 1518 mod. (Chambers, 1936). See also V.C.H. Oxon. vol.12. From the 1861 census it appears that Acre End Street extended towards what is now the Old Witney Road.

Aire Lane - referred to in schedule attached to deed relating to the family of the late James Gibbons (1879/80 Mor.xviii/vi/4/5) wherein the Britannia Inn, later the Railway Inn is described as being situate. This name was misread in E.R. no.5 p. 21 as Fire Lane. Exact location unsure.

**Alma Place** - see OS Oxon XXXII.7 1876. Chambers refers to Almerly Close (1545) later "the Almoner's" which seems to have been in the vicinity of where these cottages were built.

**Back Lane** - sometimes referred to as The Backs. Shown on the 1913 O.S. map continuing along the present Clover Place.

**Bartholomew Close** - modern development on field previously used as sports field by Bartholomew School. Named July 1991.

**Beech Road** - appears on Pye's plans for housing development Nov. 1966.

**Bitterell** - Bitteralls Lane 1782 = Mead Lane. Also referred to as Beterhale etc. see Chambers, 1936. Corpus Christi College suggested name for present development 1974.

**Blankstones Close** - 1992/3 development named taken from farm which bears date 1802 and initials of James Preston (V.C.H. Oxon., vol.12 p.114)

**Cassington Road** - named for its destination. See also Chambers, 1936.

**Chapel Yard** - built c. 1860 by the Arnatts on site of former brewery (V.C.H. Oxon vol.12. p.114). O.S. Oxon XXXII.8, 1876, shows Primitive Methodist Chapel at top of this lane. Designated as Chapel Lane EPC 1950. Now 49-63 Newlands Street.

**Chilbridge Road** - named for the bridge over the Chilbrook.

**Church Street** - designated as part of The Square by EPC 1950.

**Clover Place** - name chosen by EPC October 7th 1930 for the newly erected Council houses.

**Conduit Lane** - named for the conduit there. See V.C.H. Oxon, vol.12

**Coronation Avenue** - leading off from Witney Road opposite Old Witney Road turn.

**Crown Crescent** - now known as 18-42 Acre End Street.

**Cuckoo Lane** - see Chambers, 1936 and Thomas Pride Map 1782.

**Dovehouse Close** - In 1984 when the first house was built the area was named Badgers' Walk by the builder. This was later changed to Dovehouse Close. A close of that name shown on the 1782 Thomas Pride map.

**Duncan Close** - Pye's plans 1967. See Shakespeare Road.

**Evans Close** - believed to be named for an Evans family.

Evans Road - ditto.

**Falstaff Close** - Pye's plans, 1967. See Shakespeare Road.

**Freeman's Lane** - referred to as near Conduit Lane EPC minutes 1936.

**Fruitlands** - Built on site of 'Fruitlands' owned by Mr. M.T. Charles, Fruitgrower, Kelly's Directory

1935. Pye's plans, 1981

**George Street** - Appears in 1841 census as part of High Street.

**Grangemill Court** - on land formerly housing farm buildings.

**Greens Road** - believed to named for Mr. Bernard Green.

**Hanborough Close** - see Chambers, 1936.

**Hanborough Road** - called Bladon Way in 13th century, see V.C.H. Oxon., vol.12 Hawthorn Road - Pye's plans 1974. Formerly known as Newlands Quarry site.

**Heycroft** - Hey (Hay) a small enclosed field; croft enclosed meadow usually adjacent to a house. Houses built 1971.

**High Street** - formerly part of Thames Street. See E.R. no. 6. Designated from Maltshovel House to Queen St. corner (EPC 1950.)

**John Lopes Road** - John Ludlow Lopes, M.A., D.D., 1882-1961. Catholic Priest in Eynsham from 1928.

**Lombard Street** - formerly part of Abbey Street first mentioned in Kelly's Directory of 1899. This is said to have been named by Mr. Gibbons because of the proximity of a bank. See photograph of Barclay's Bank E.R. no.7. [Fiona Bryant]

**Marlborough Close** - built on land formerly owned by the Duke of Marlborough

Marlborough Place - ditto

**Mead Lane** - Mead or Meadow, see Bitteralls Lane.

**Merton Close** - built on land formerly owned by Merton College., name suggested by EPC 1979.

**Mill Street** - street leading to the Mill, see V.C.H. Oxon, vol.12.

**Milmoor crescent** - used on Pye's plans 1966, field name, also Mullemore, see Chambers, 1936.

**Newland Close** - We have looked at two maps of Eynsham. One of them from 1913 and the other modern. In 1913 Newland Close was called Pug Lane. The only buildings were the thatched barn and Queen's lane Cottages. All the rest of the land was orchards. In the land registry the entry for our house shows that houses were built in 1962 and the name was changed from Pug Lane to Newland Close. 10 more houses were built in 1971. [David Luna]

**Newland Street** - In 1215 Abbot Adam founded the Newlands, because people wanted more land to farm and rent and the village was too small. In those days the important parts of the village were the Abbey, church and market square. The Newlands were north of the village. We know all this because the charter still exists. The charter describes the boundary of the Newlands. Newlands Close in the SW boundary of the Newlands. Newlands Close used to be called Pug Lane or Pig Lane! [Joseph Luna]

**Old Witney Road** - relegated in the early 1930's by the building of the A40. Designated by EPC 1950 as being from "junction of by-pass by the Evenlode Hotel to Mount Pleasant Corner". Orchard Close - built on an old orchard, part of the ground belonging to the house called The Orchard in Queen Street.

**Oxford Road** - named for destination; the Port Street named as part of boundary in Domesday book according to "Some Account of the History of Eynsham", author unknown. Designated by EPC 1950 as being from Queen St. corner to Toll Bridge.

**Pelican Place** - name suggested by Fr. John Lopes, the land having belonged to Corpus Christi College who have statue of pelican in a quadrangle of the college. (EPC Minute Aug. 25, 1936)

**Pink Hill Lane** - named for destination.

**Puck Lane** - Now Queen Street. In 1596 William Boulter had 2 tenements there O.R.O. 187.372; 3/4/22. See V.C.H. Oxon., vol.12.

**Pug Lane** - now refers to the lane emerging by the garage in High Street and running from Queen's Lane. Originally running from Newland Street to Queen Street see under Newland Close.

**Queen's Close** - Modern development 1970.

**Queen's Lane** - formerly Love Lane.

**Queen Street** - formerly Puck Lane. Probably renamed in the 18th century (V.C.H., Oxon. vol.12)

**Shakespeare Road** - name inspired by the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth (1964). Appears on Pye's plans 1967.

**Spareacre Lane** - field name, Sparrow Acre etc. see Chambers, 1936.

**Spareacre Place** - 10 new Council houses built there 1933.

**Station Road** - previously New Bridge Road, see Chambers, 1936.

**Stratford Drive** - Pye's plans 1967. Part of the 'Shakespearean' collection, also many of the houses in this development were of the 'Stratford' design.

**Swan Street** - Swan Lane 1847= Market Street (Chambers, 1936)

**Tanners Lane**- mention of a John Tanner living in Eynsham 1434 or could be connected with the tanning industry.

**Thames Street** - at one time George Street, see V.C.H. Oxon., vol.12

**The Tuer** - sometimes spelt Tewe: a Midlands term for an alley or narrow lane. [Local Historian's Encyclopedia by John Richardson]

**Thornbury Road** - Cul-de-sac originally with 8 houses built by Mr Malin ca. 1965. One house since demolished. Named whimsically after Thornbury Castle about which the developer had been reading at the time.

**Tilgarsley Road** - was named after a medieval hamlet called Tilgarsley (Tilgerdesle, Tylgarslee). The hamlet acquired its name because of an early Anglo-Saxon settler called Tilgar, whose name was given to the forest clearing or 'ley' which put together became 'Tilgarsley'. In the year 1279 the hamlet Tilgarsley had about 52 tenants, but by 1350 the hamlet had been deserted. Tilgarsley was abandoned after it had been struck by the Bubonic plague in about 1349. As yet there have been no proven theories of where Tilgarsley actually was but Twelve-Acre farm, Barnard Gate, Freeland, Turner's Green and Bowles farm are just a few of the possible candidates. (Ref: E.R. Nos. 1 & 10; A History of Oxfordshire by Mary Jessup; V.C.H. Oxon., vol.12) [Katy Bruce]

**Trap Alley** - at S. end of Queen Street, built by Richard Bowerman 1817 remaining until 1930s (V.C.H. Oxon).

**Wasties Lane** - Mr. David Wastie for many years Chairman of the Parish Council. Named in September 1990.

**Witney Road** - named for its destination.

**Wytham Close** - sometime site of pagan cemetery (V.C.H.Oxon.vol.12). Former site of allotments.

**Wytham View** - named for view of Wytham which according to 'M.Billings Director & Gazette 1854' was a fortress supposed to have been built by Kinewulf, King of the W. Saxons during wars with Offa King of Mercia and conquered by latter. Original possessors of the manor were the Wyghtham family.

## Abbreviations

Chambers, 1936	Chambers, E.K. <i>Eynsham under the Monks</i> . Oxfordshire Record Society, vol.18, 1936.
EPC	Eynsham Parish Council
E.R.	Eynsham Record.
O.R.O.	Oxfordshire Record Office, later Oxfordshire Archives
O.S.	Ordnance Survey.
V.C.H. Oxon.	<i>The Victoria History of the County of Oxford</i> .

---

<sup>i</sup> **Members of the group:** Katy Bruce, Fiona Bryant, Julia Harris, (Bartholomew School); Helen Bryant, Becky Bullard, Helen Dearing, Emma Green, Tina Harris, Emily Holland, Faye Leighton, David Luna, Joseph Luna, Catherine Medina, Jillian Pukaniuk, Thomas Rawlinson, Pamela Richards, & Michelle Winter.

Thanks to Messrs. JA. Pye (Oxford) Ltd. for their development plans.