Fairford Street Names

A shortened version of Fairford History Society Occasional Paper No 11

Aldsworth Close

In 1966 the Parish Council suggested to Cirencester Rural District Council the names Aldsworth Ground and Home Ground after an 'old church map of 1700'. In the 1769 Inclosure Map this area was quite clearly owned by William Oldisworth and in the 1834 Terrier Map it appears as Oldsworth. On the 1841 Tithe Map it had become Aldsworth. There is a reference in the Fairford Preservation Trust minutes of 1967 that FPT considered that the name should have been Oldsworth Close, 'from deeds and graves' but did not pursue it as it was considered too expensive to change the signage etc. The Oldisworth/Oldsworth family were landowners in Fairford during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Back Lane

Back Lane was often used as the term for the road behind the main street. In the 1769 Inclosure document Back Lane was cited as Backmore Lane (the back way to the Moor which was the area south of the town to the north of the River Coln.) In the Parish Council Minutes of 15th May 1910 is written. 'A letter from the Rural District Council was read stating that as the Back Lane had never been repaired by them or their predecessors, they could not undertake to repair this road. The Council would however be prepared to take over this road, if it were in the first place put in a proper state of repair by the Owners.' However it was not adopted by the County Council until circa 1980.

Barker Place

The Barker family name has strong connections with Fairford; the family were Lords of the Manor for over 200 years. Andrew Barker moved to Fairford in 1650 and bought the manor after the estate was sequestered from the Tracys and it was handed down through Samuel Barker to his daughter Esther who married James Lambe. There were no direct Barker descendants after Esther Lambe so the estate went to John Raymond, her nephew, on the condition he adopt the Barker name to become Raymond Barker and the family kept the estate until 1952 when it was bought by the Ernest Cook Trust. The street names St Mary's Drive, Barker Place, Beauchamp Close and Warwick Close were suggested by Wimpey the developer. FTC wanted the development to be called Crabtree but Wimpey insisted on The Weavers as they said Fairford had strong connections to the weaving industry, although the evidence is scanty.

Beauchamp Close

The Manor of Fairford was inherited by Isobel le Despenser in 1414. She married Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester and then secondly Richard, Earl of Warwick. She died in 1439 when she was succeeded by her son Henry, Duke of Warwick. The house John Tame occupied was supposed to have been called Warwick or Beauchamp Court. The name was suggested by Wimpey, the developer. (See Barker Place)

Beaumoor Place

The area south of the town and to the north of the River Coln was always known as the Moor. In the 1769 Inclosure document references can be found to Bomer or Bowmoor. Beaumoor Farm is shown on the 1876- 1901 OS Map. From the 1979 Parish Council minutes: 'Several months ago the Cotswold District Council asked the Parish Council to suggest suitable names for the Old Peoples development also the residential area at East End. It was discussed at several meetings and after several suggestions it was agreed to put forward to the Cotswold District Council the Old Peoples development Beaumoor Place, and the residential area Keble Lawns.'

Bettertons Close

The Betterton families were landholders, leaseholders and tenants in Fairford from the 16th Century. There were several families of them some being landlords of the Bull and some the Swan. They also owned land in the west of Fairford known as Milton End fields and on the 1841 Tithe Map part of that land is known as Betterton's Piece. Negotiations began with the Ernest Cook Trust in late 1969 to acquire the piece of land known as The Orchard in Coronation Street. This was where Bettertons Close was built.

Bridge Street One of the oldest names in Fairford from the crossing of the River Coln. The bridge had been built by the late 12th Century. The name Bridge Street can be found in the 1662 record of the Church Lands Charity 'Fairford Booke'.

Brook Vale

Brook Vale is a two-house modern development built on the site of garages of the Plies/Courtbrook. The name, probably invented by the 4 developer, derives from the Courtbrook. Planning permission for the site was obtained in 2003. (See Courtbrook)

The Carriers

This was the name chosen for the four houses built on the site of the Carriers Arms in Horcott Road. There is no sign or plaque and the name appears to be little used.

Churchill Place

Named after Sir Winston Churchill, the great statesman of the war years and the 1950s. The name was chosen in 1965 from suggestions by the developer; Churchill had died in January of that year

Cinder Lane

The lane appears quite clearly on the 1769 Inclosure map, it links with a well defined route, which was called the 'Streetway' in 1769 leading through to Whelford Road. The name has connections to Fairford Railway which opened in 1873. It was a route to the Station and was mentioned in the Parish Council Minutes as Black Lane for quite some time. It was maintained with clinker from the Railway. From the FPC minutes: 'Mr Dancy having obtained permission to introduce the subject relating to the Cinder Path leading to the Railway Station, said the Council had taken over the path and had decided to repair it, but this had not been done and he thought as the path was so greatly used by the G W Railway employees the company would grant them sufficient cinder to repair it and moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr Powell and carried unanimously.'

Cirencester Road

The road to Cirencester. This was originally a 1727 Turnpike Road and marked as London Road on the 1754 Inclosure Map. The name was formally adopted in January 1950.

Coln Gardens

Coln Gardens was built on the site of the Old Nursery Gardens on Milton Street. There is one reference to it as Milton Street Nurseries. The two houses were built in 1995-96 and the name was in use by 1997.

Coronation Street

Coronation Street was formerly known as Milton End. The street was renamed to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII at the suggestion of Councillor Eric Cole who lived at Milton Farm and was approved by the 1902 Parish Council. The name was formally adopted in January 1950.

Courtbrook

The Court ditch ran from the River Coln behind Back Lane to join the River Coln further east. It was a watercourse that ran across a court or enclosed area and is clearly marked on early maps. The area was developed in the 1970s by Percy Chick developer, the area being divided into plots and then sold individually. The first reference to the name is in the Parish Council minutes of 3rd February, 1971

Crabtree Park

Crabtree Ground was the area between Leafield Road and Hatherop Road on the 1841 Tithe Map. FTC had wanted the whole estate to be known as Crabtree Park. However, from the 1988 Parish News: 'Local Fairfordians will know that the field was always known as Crab Tree Ground. Wimpey had requested that the name 'The Weavers' be used but we have been at pains to explain that despite association with the wool trade there was never any history of weaving in Fairford – it is hoped we will persuade them in favour of Crabtree Park'. Bovis the developer accepted the street name Crabtree Park on the suggestion of the Town Council.

Crabtree Villas

Crabtree Villas was built slightly later than Victory Villas around 1923 along the Hatherop Road. The houses were renamed in 1953, when the new development north of Hatherop Road was being built.

The Croft/Croft Terrace/Lower Croft

This was an area used to pasture animals and was part of the Inclosures in 1770. This was probably the main road through Fairford as the road from Cirencester appears to have gone straight on after the Town Bridge and through to the Croft. It was thought it was changed in the early 15th Century.

Croft Lane

Croft Lane was not named until 2002, the residents requested the change because of address confusion. It was approved by FTC in December 2002 and confirmed by CDC a few weeks later.

Dynevor Place/Terrace

Dynevor Place and Terrace were named after the Vicar of Fairford, Francis William Rice, 7th Lord Dynevor. He was the town's longest serving vicar from 1829-1878. The name appears in the 1871 census.

East End

Now a specific area of the town, but from at least the 16th Century all the area east of the River Coln was known as East End and the area west of the Coln the West End. The name was formally adopted in January 1950.

Faulkner's Close

Named after John Faulkner who died 12th October 1941, age 76. He lived at Dunfield Farm and was a major landowner in the district. He had been a J.P. for 51 years and Chairman of Fairford Magistrates for over 25 years. He was a member and sometime Chairman of Cirencester Rural District Council. For a long period of time he was Chairman of Kempsford Parish Council and Churchwarden at Kempsford Church. Horcott was part of Kempsford Parish until 31st December 1986. The name was suggested to CDC by Kempsford Parish Council in 1965.

Fayre Gardens

Built on land belonging to Fayre Court which is an early 20th Century house replacing the original house on Milton Street, then known as Milton House. This was where Sarah Thomas of 'Sarah Thomas's diary' lived during the 19th Century. Fayre Court was where Noëlle Macfie, Countess of Rothes who survived the sinking of the Titanic, lived until her death in 1956. The name of Fayre Gardens was approved in 2001.

The Garretts

The Garretts is named on the 1754 Inclosure map: 'the greensward called Garratts before Bye's [Milton] Farm'. Apart from the known meaning of a room at the top of the house Garrett is also a medieval 7 word used for 'watch tower'. It may have been a look-out point as it is high up above the town and there are other lookout words e.g. totter and waiten in the area. It also may have been a personal name from someone not yet discovered.

Gas Lane (River Walk)

The site of the Gas Works in Fairford off Back Lane from 1852-1936 when mains gas was piped from Swindon. From the 2005 FTC minutes: 'A resident of Gas Lane had requested a street nameplate. which was passed on to CDC... [The] Town Council was asked for their suggestions. After discussion the name 'Nash Lane' was proposed...[Two days later] 'It was a misunderstanding and there is not an option to change the name of Gas Lane, just whether to have Gas Lane or River Walk or both.' Gas Lane only was proposed and agreed. The name plate says 'Gas Lane (River Walk)'.

Goodmans Terrace

Mr and Mrs Goodman had both been clerks of the Parish Council. Mr Goodman died in 1972 having been clerk from the 1950s. Mrs Goodman carried on his place as clerk until her death in 1981. From the FTC minutes: 'Naming of road, the Town Council agreed a preferred name of Goodmans Terrace Mr Goodman was an ex-Town Clerk and long serving Councillor, and has been deceased for over 25 years.'

The Green

The Green, Greene, Greenway are all mentioned in 16th Century documents. In the 1841 Tithe Map The Green was owned by the town.

Groves Place

This was the Busby's Garage site on Milton Street named after CDC Councillor Eric Groves. Other names had been suggested by Beaufort Homes Ltd but CDC had wanted to honour Councillor Groves with a street name in memory of him at the earliest opportunity. 'At the meeting on the 11th January 2000 the Committee approved the name 'Groves Place' for the Milton Reach development at Fairford. Complaints have subsequently been received from the ward member and Fairford Town Council that they had not been fully consulted on the proposal'.

Hatherop Road/Lane

Hatherop may mean 'farmstead on a hill or high point'. The 't[he]rop' suffix means an outlying farmstead. See also Crabtree Villas.

High Street

A very common name for the main road in a town or village. There are references to the 'Hyghe Street' in early 17th Century documents.

Homeground Lane

In 1966 the Council suggested to CRDC that Home Ground should be named after an 'old church map of 1700'. In the Tithe Map of 1841 Home Ground is cited as the field name in the same area.

Horcott Road

The road leading to Horcott. Horcott means a cottage in a dirty or muddy place. The name Horcote was mentioned as early as 1225. Horcott Piece was named as part of a Betterton property in the early 17th Century documents.

Jefferies Close

Jefferies Close was named after Jack and Queenie Jefferies the owners of the land on which the road was built. No.19 Queensfield had to be demolished to allow road access. The name was approved by FTC in 1989.

John Tame Close

John Tame moved from Cirencester to Fairford in the last quarter of the 15th Century, leasing the manor from the Crown. He was a wealthy wool merchant who exported Cotswold wool throughout Britain and Europe. He was responsible for the almost complete rebuilding of St Mary's Church in Fairford but died in 1500, leaving the installation of the now world famous windows to his son Edmund. The Tudor historian Leland said 'Fairford never florishid afore the cumming of the Tames onto it.' The name was approved in 1993.

Keble Lawns

Named after the Keble family, who lived in Court Close (now Keble House). John Keble the elder was Vicar of Coln St Aldwyns and often officiated in St Mary's Church as did his son John Keble, the younger (1792-1866) who was one of the founders of the Oxford Movement and author of 'The Christian Year'. Edward Keble, the great, great nephew of John Keble the younger was Vicar of St Mary's from 1946-1974. Named in 1979. See also Beaumoor Place.

Lakeside

Lakeside is adjacent to the Horcott Lake site 101,101a and 101b and was in Kempsford Parish until December 31st 1986. Kempsford Parish Council ...'decided to accept the name 'Lakeside' in respect of the proposed development at Horcott by Messrs H R & G Baldwin Limited.'

Leafield Road

The shape of Lea Wood makes a useful identification on old maps. It is mentioned in 16th Century documents. On the 1690 Fairford Park map the area was in use for strip farming where many of the villagers would own a number of strips for subsistence farming. Leafield Road was not built until after the Inclosures of 1770. 'Lea' means clearing. It was called Quenington Road or Quenington Road East until the new developments were built and the road outside the school widened. From the 1988 FTC minutes: 'The road running NE of Queensfield to be called Leafield Rd, the road running north from Coronation Street Quenington Road'.

Little Horcott

After Horcott became part of Fairford in 1987, residents requested that a name should be given to this stretch of road as it had been formerly known as Horcott Road which caused confusion. A request was made to CDC (who had thought it was called Lakeside) and various names were suggested in consultation with the residents. From the 1987 Parish News: 'Little Horcott Lane: the road leading to Lakeside is to be called Little Horcott Lane in preference to Baldwin's Way . See also Horcott Road.

London Road/Street

The road to London, a 1727 Turnpike Road, named on the 1754 Inclosure document. The names seemed to be interchangeable probably until addresses were formalised in the mid-20th Century.

Longlands

Longlands was named by the developer. It was built on the long plots of West End Gardens about 1974. The Council wanted it to be a continuation of West End Gardens.

Lygon Court

Katherine Tame (nee Denys), who had been married to Sir Edmund Tame, was married subsequently to Walter Buckler and then to Roger Lygon (died 1584). The Lygon family come from Madresfield Court and married into the Beauchamp family and fought with Warwick in the Wars of the Roses.

Manor Close/Court

Manor Close was built in the grounds of Manor Farm, formerly part of the Fairford Park Estate. In the 1876-1901 OS Map it is shown as Eastend Farm. Manor Court was built on Pink's Barn Restaurant car park site. In 1981 a request for a street sign was placed with CDC.

Market Place

Although Andrew Barker obtained a Charter from Charles II to hold a Market every Thursday and a fair four times a year in 1671, markets had been held in Fairford ever since the 12th Century. No very early references to Market Place have been found.

Mill Lane

In 1066, there were actually three mills belonging to the Fairford Manor, one of which was said to be on the site of the current mill. In 1296 the site included a fulling mill, but by 1307, there were only corn mills. In the 17th Century a mill was recorded where Mill Lane crossed the Coln. This is the main part of the mill that we see today. The left wing was added in 1827 and further alterations were made in 1841 and 1857. Mill Lane is mentioned in the 'Fairford Booke' schedule of 1662.

Milton Place

Formerly known as Wix's or Wick's Yard, and also as Tiger Bay. These names were just nicknames. Milton Place first appears as an address in the burial registers of 1882, but was probably in use well before that date although it does not appear as such in the census until 1911.

Milton Street

The road leading to Milton End. Milton End was the name Coronation Street was called before 1902. It is most likely that it means 'Mil town' from the Miltown town tithing. There are 12th and 13th Century references to Middleton which means 'middle farmstead' which may have become Milton as by the 15th Century it had become Mylton or Milton.

Moor Lane

The name Moor Lane appears in 17th Century documents. The area between the town and the River Coln was known as the 'moor', hence the road leading to the Moor.

Moor Lane Court

The name for these houses was discussed by the FTC Planning Committee in September, 1989. The Committee was unable to make a decision but was not keen on the word 'moor' being used and the decision was left to the FTC Chairman. It is recorded that Moor Lane Court was selected in October, 1989.

Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant House is a late 18th Century building which later became a school. In cities Mount Pleasant was often used as an ironic term to denote the less desirable parts of town but this may not have been the case in Fairford. The Mount Pleasant name was formally 16 adopted in January 1950. The row of cottages at right angles to Mount Pleasant called **Pleasant Row** is dated 1837.

The Orchard

On the 1834 Terrier Map and 1841 Tithe Map the site was clearly an orchard and in 1841 was owned by the Fairford Park Estate. It was shown as allotments in the early 20th Century and later was part of Fairford Primary School. It was named by the developer and approved by FTC December 1996.

Park Close

Park Close was suggested by FTC in 1975 possibly due to it its proximity to Park Street or Fairford Park.

Park Street

Park Street was formerly Calcot Street, it changed its name towards the end of the 19th Century. It may have been due to change of the main resident at Fairford Park or perhaps because of a change of tenant at Park Farm. In the Parish Council Minutes which start in 1894 it is always referred to as Park Street. In the Parish Registers the name is used from the 1880s.

The Plies

Despite considerable research, the derivation of the name Plies remains uncertain. It is mentioned as Plyes Mead in 16th Century documents and the Inclosure of 1769. It may have had connections with the wool trade as an inset map has been found in a 16th Century document with Rack Close marked and Plies may have been the drying racks. The word as a place name has not been found in any other reference book. In January 1953 the Parish Council approved '...the Swedish Houses be called the Plies'.

Prince Charles Road

Named in honour of Prince Charles who had become heir to the throne. From the 1953 FTC minutes: 'After a long discussion it was unanimously agreed that ...the Airey Houses 1 to 10 be named Prince Charles Road'. Reference: FPC 6.1.1953

The Quarry

Previously near or on the site of an old quarry. Small quarries abound in the Cotswolds, although the stone in the Fairford area is suitable only for stone walls or road bedding. It was named in 1971. Reference: PCM 17.11.1971

Queensfield

Queen Elizabeth II had just come to the throne and the coronation was due to take place that year. From the 1953 FTC minutes: 'After a long discussion it was unanimously agreed that the new Housing site should be called Queens Field...'

Saxon Way

Named after the Saxon Graves found in approximately that area in the mid 19th Century. The graves were found during quarrying and recorded by William Wylie in a book called 'Fairford Graves', published in 1852. The name suggested by CDC was approved by FTC in 2001.

St Mary's Drive

Named after the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fairford. The name was suggested by Wimpey, the developer in 1988. See also Barker Place.

Sunhill Close

Smith says that Sunhill was often derived from the word Sunday's hill and names denoting a day indicated that it was a special day at that place for some reason. Residents had requested the name to CDC, as on the way to Sunhill Cross roads. The name was approved by FTC in 2005

Totterdown Lane

The 'totter' prefix may have been a hill with a look out post or possibly a personal name.

Vines Row

Vines Row was named after Samuel Vines who owned considerable land in the area and lived in a big house (Vines Villa) on The Green. He was obtaining rents from the land and cottages in 1849-1890s and Vines Row had been built by 1880. He married Mary Ann Mills of Reading in 1832; unfortunately she died in 1838 age 35. Samuel died in 1892 and has a large tombstone beside the Church path.

Victory Villas

These houses and Crabtree Villas were post World War 1 housing completed in the 1920s. Victory Villas is situated on London Road and Hatherop Road with very long gardens in between on which Churchill Place and The Quarry were built later.

Warwick Close

The Manor of Fairford was inherited by Isobel le Despenser in 1414. She married Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester and then secondly Richard, Earl of Warwick. She died in 1439 when she was succeeded by her son Henry Duke of Warwick. His sister Anne inherited and she married Richard Neville, Duke of Warwick in 1471. The house John Tame occupied was supposed to have been called Warwick or Beauchamp Court. The name was suggested by Wimpey, the developer in 1987. See also Barker Place.

Waterloo Lane

Presumably named after 1815 from the Battle of Waterloo or perhaps because Waterloo House was built in the mid 1800s and the street became known as Waterloo Lane. About 1787 six cottages were built as poorhouses with charity money. This was called originally Tinkers' Row.

The Weavers

The name of the estate that consists of St Mary's Drive, Barker Place, Beauchamp Close and Warwick Close, chosen by the developer, Wimpey because of Fairford's supposed close connections with the weaving trade. FTC wanted the name Crabtree but the developers insisted on 'The Weavers' despite the fact that the evidence of strong connections to the weaving trade in Fairford is scanty.

Welsh Way

The old drovers' route from Wales via Birdlip to interact with the highest crossing and navigation of the Thames at Lechlade. On the 1754 inclosure map it is also called Gloucester Way.

Wesson Place

The National Grocers Benevolent Fund had purchased land at Courtbrook and erected three retirement bungalows, to be named Wesson Place, Courtbrook. William S Wesson was Chairman of NGBF 1977/78. There is a plaque outside No 3 Wesson Place.

West End Gardens

The area west of the Coln was known as West End and in this area of the town was a huge allotment throughout the 20th Century. Mr J. Taylor of Farmor's School introduced the subject of gardening in 1905 and the school grew produce there. The first houses were built there in the late Victorian times and the bricks used were those from the brick works at Waiten Hill. The name was formally adopted in January, 1950.

White Hart Court

Site of the White Hart Public house, said to be a 15th Century inn wwhich closed in the late 1980s. The large cast iron pub sign remains plus a sign denoting its long history from 1475. Pubs were often called the White Hart to denote allegiance to Richard II.

Street names that were not chosen

Baldwin's Way for Little Horcott. Baldwin's the Builders yard used to be on or near this site. The houses in Little Horcott were called Baldwin's Buildings for a time and the firm was said to have dug the Horcott Lake.

Beauchamp Court for Lygon Court

Croft Lane was also known as Baldwin's Alley as it was next to Baldwin's Shop, then Peyman's Alley when Peyman's took over the shop.

Busby's, Milton Reach, Riverview, Riverbank, Coln for Groves Place

Churchacre for the Carriers (Arms) site in Horcott Road. In fact on the 1841 tithe map this site was called Churchacre and was referred to as that in Council minutes into the 1950s.

Copse Close for John Tame Close

Criers Court for Goodmans Terrace

Fairford Close. A name suggested for Churchill Place by the developer.

Lakeside Way for Little Horcott

Lycum or Lycums also an alternative suggestion for Churchill Place. No explanation has been found for this.

Nash Lane for Gas Lane

Radway Close for Sunhill Close

Redlands Road. A name suggested by the developer for Hatherop Lane where the Aldsworth Close houses front the Lane.

Some of the street names that have disappeared

Airey Houses were a type of prefabricated house, consisting of a frame of prefabricated concrete columns reinforced with tubing recycled from the frames of military vehicles. They were designed by Sir Edwin Airey to help solve the post war building crisis in rural areas. Unfortunately there was a flaw in the design and they had to be pulled down after thirty years, as happened at Prince Charles Road.

Blackford (Barn) Road: The road to Honeycombe Leaze or Welsh Way. This name is now not recorded on a sign. However it is still referred by that name by the older residents of Fairford. It was named after Blackford Farm and the Barn to the south of the road, which is clearly marked on the 1834 Terrier Map.

Calcot Street means houses on the north side of the town. There are early 17th references in the schedule in the 'Fairford Booke'. The name changed to Park Street in the latter part of the 19th Century.

Common Lane: the footpath northward off the Cirencester Road to the Honeycombe Leaze Road. It intersects the Milking Path to Bettertons Close and both are marked clearly on the 1754 inclosure map. Both names are remembered by longstanding Fairford residents.

Gloucester Way: an alternative name for Welsh Way, locally known as Blackford (Barn) Road. This was the the old drovers' route from Wales to London via Birdlip, to reach the highest navigation and crossing of the Thames at Lechlade.

Swedish Houses were prefabricated houses imported from Sweden by the Government in the post WW2 years. Their design is distinctive and can be found all over the country. Their life span was planned to be ten years so our Swedish type houses in The Plies have lasted very well.

Vicaridge [sic] Street: Mentioned in the 17th Century 'Fairford Booke', the Vicarage was sited in Vicaridge Street (London Street) from the 16th Century until 1946. It was next to the Tithe Barn.

Station Road was sometimes used for part of London Road leading to the Station (1873-1962).

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