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An Historical Directory

By 'Beorcham'

Berkhamsted Street Names

(CONTINUED)

There are interesting stories behind many of our street names, a list of which was started in last month's *Review*, and will be continued next month.

No attempt is made to include every street name. Little or nothing can be said about such names as Beech Drive, Montague Road, Park View Road, and Meadow Road. But, as will be seen below, Gallows Lane can tell a macabre tale, King's Road was formerly Cox's Lane or Bridewell Lane, and Kitsbury Road perpetuates the old place-name of Kicks End or Kitts Bury End.

Please co-operate in making the list as complete and accurate as possible by drawing attention, *at once*, to errors and omissions.

FRIDAY STREET.—The name Friday Street Farm (in Haresfoot Park) poses a problem, for it is difficult to conjure up visions of a street in such a remote place. But Friday Streets are found elsewhere, and perhaps someone can suggest how the name originated. An old local document gives the spelling "Fridaye Streete."

GALLOWS LANE.—Sinister! This turning (off Shootersway) is said to take its name from a Civil War incident, when a soldier was found guilty of treason, executed on the spot, and buried with a stake through his heart.

GOSSOMS END.—"Goshams yende" in 1565; derived from family name Gossalm, afterwards spelt Gossam.

GRAB-ALL ROW.—See Middle Row.
GRAEMESDYKE ROAD.—A fancy spelling of Grim's Dyke, ancient earthwork, best seen on Berkhamsted Common.

GRANVILLE ROAD (Northchurch).—Named after Major Granville, a local resident.

GRAVEL PATH.—No mistaking the humble origin of this road! Now a misleading name, but no one seems to mind.

GREEN LANE.—Official name of little (private) lane from Chesham Road to Rectory gardens.

GREENE FIELD ROAD.—Riverside turning off Lower King's Road; known as Brewery Road when Locke and Smith's Brewery was flourishing. Greene Field, which adjoins this little road, was given to Berkhamsted School by the late Mr. Edward Greene.

GREENE WALK.—Also named after the late Mr. Edward Greene, last owner of The Hall. See Hall Park.

HALL PARK.—An obvious name, but it may puzzle newcomers when The Hall, a mansion demolished shortly before the second World War, is completely forgotten.

HAMPTON COURT ROAD.—Name of former cul-de-sac off George Street, mentioned in deeds from 1886 onwards. But the name was not used after 1929, when the foot-bridge over the canal was built and Hampton Court Road (east of the Recreation Ground) was linked with what is now called Little Bridge Road.

HAPPY VALLEY.—Name given to little group of cottages off Castle Street (near Key's yard), approached through a battlemented gateway.

HARESFOOT.—An intriguing name. Harefothull (1357), Haresforde-shende (1287).

HIGHFIELD ROAD.—Originally The Pightle, an old name meaning "a strip of meadow-land between two copses." Called Prospect Street or Prospect Place in early Victorian days. (The former Wesleyan Chapel in Highfield Road was known as "Prospect Place Chapel" in 1854.)

HIGH STREET.—Almost exactly follows the line of the Roman Akeman Street. Described by Leland as "a large stretre metely well builded from the north to the south"—but his compass must have been inaccurate!

HOLLIDAY STREET.—Perpetuates name of family of wheelwrights who for generations had workshop at top of street.

IVY HOUSE LANE.—Popularly known as Dwight's Lane, as it runs from the valley to Gutteridge (or Dwight's) Farm. The name Ivy House

Lane has been used for many years, but does not appear in the Register of Electors, which favours the general name of Sunnyside. The lower part of the lane is comparatively modern; originally the lane started beside Rose Cottage, where there was a level crossing, and continued uphill to a point near the present junction of Meadow and Ivy House Lane.

KING'S ROAD.—Formerly Bridewell Lane (named after Bridewell, or prison, on site of Police Station). Also called Cox Lane, and, in older documents, Cocks Lane. A document dated 1607 refers to "John Cocke's tenement with a backside at Cokes lane end." This suggests a family name, but Cobb, in his "History of Berkhamsted," states that the name was "probably received from an old inn of the sign of the 'Cock,' which we find to have formerly existed in that part of the street." The modern name King's Road was doubtless inspired by Kingshill.

KITSBURY ROAD.—Derived from Kicks End Bury or Kitts End Bury. Until 1860's it was a track to Kitsbury Farm, now demolished. The Post Office spelling is "Kittsbury."

MANOR STREET.—Recalls the former Pilkington Manor, which stretched from Castle Street to beyond Holliday Street, and from the High Street to beyond the railway. Manor Street was made after the breaking up of the estate in the 1850's.

MIDDLE ROAD.—Not a central road! In Victorian and Edwardian days it was officially named Kitsbury Middle Road, but the prefix was dropped many years ago.

MIDDLE ROW.—(Not to be confused with Middle Road.) Name given in old documents to row of shops between "One Bell" public-house and the parish church. Also called "Le Shopperowe." Nicknamed "Grab-all Row," because the buildings were an encroachment on the town green.

MILL STREET.—A name we must never change. Commemorates "Domesday Book" watermill (Upper Mill), pulled down nearly 30 years ago.

NEW ROAD.—Built by Earl Brownlow in 1860's. Was formerly closed one day a year to maintain its status as a private road.

NEW ROAD (Northchurch).—The lower part is old, but the road across the Common was new in the 19th century, replacing an old track which, for the first mile or so, skirted the Common.

NORRIS'S TERRACE.—Little turning off Gossoms End, perpetuating one of the town's oldest family names.

NORTH ROAD.—Named after the late Mr. Joseph North, a local business man, who was largely responsible for the development of this road. Geographically, a misleading name!

(To be continued)

Medicine and Food

Local Arrangements

Arrangements for the emergency supply of medicine now operating in Berkhamsted is as follows:—

CHEMISTS' ROTA

The week-day evening (6-7 p.m.) and Sunday morning (11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.) service rota adopted by Berkhamsted chemists for the dispensing of medical prescriptions, is as follows for the current month:—

March 1-7: Figg.
March 8-14: Dickman.
March 15-21: Taylors.
March 22-28: Boots.
March 29-April 4: Figg.

FOOD OFFICE

The Food Office, in the Town Hall, is open on four week-days as follows:—

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 to 5 p.m.
Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

The Berkhamsted Branch of the County Library is open in Prince Edward Street on the following days and times:

Monday and Friday—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Thursday—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A bye-law relating to the fouling of footpaths by dogs has been approved by the Home Office for operation in the Berkhamsted urban district, and the hope was expressed at the February Council meeting that dog owners would take notice.

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