

# *WHAT'S IN A NAME?*

## **AN EXPLORATION OF THE ORIGINS OF THE STREETNAMES IN BOROUGH GREEN**



**Above : Chapel Street 1909, now part of Sevenoaks Rd**

## **BOROUGH GREEN STREETNAMES**

For many years the Parish Council have been choosing street names to honour the Great and the Good, or simply as geographic pointers to another village.

In recent years we have named Talbot Close after the old sandpit owners, Novello Close after the music publishers, and Pearsall Place after the founder of A-Z Geographers. Allingham Close commemorates Jim Allingham, a village character who was also the last quarryman we knew of who broke ragstone by hand at Stangate Quarry.

But this prompted a question: all these familiar village street names are honouring people who have now gone from the public consciousness, which seemed to defeat the purpose of the naming.

So we started an investigation, calling on old documents, Parish Council minutes and people's memories.

The result is this compilation of names and reasons. It is by no means definitive, it is a live document and it will be amended as fresh evidence comes to light.

We have put a "bibliography" at the end to prompt others into further investigation, but also to thank those who racked their memories and plundered family archives for more answers.

**Mike Taylor May 2021**

| <b>BOROUGH GREEN</b> | <b>STREETNAMES AND THEIR HISTORY &amp; ORIGINS</b>   |
|----------------------|--|
|                      |  |
| <b>HIGH ST</b>       | Plaxtol Rd became the High St as far as Rock Rd, where it became Thong Lane. Renamed Quarry Hill Road as far as (now) Darkhill Rd, where Thong Lane remains  |
| THONG LANE           | Very old name, used to run to the Crossroads, renamed Quarry Hill Rd <i>SM</i><br><i>Possibly named because each way was steep hill that would have required wagon drivers to use the whip (or thong) on the teams</i>   |
|                      |  |
|                      | <b>WOODLANDS ESTATE ( Whiffens Farm)</b>   |
| ABBOTT RD            | <b>UNKNOWN</b>   |
| CROWHURST RD         | Named after the Crowhurst family who ran Crowhurst Farm on, you guessed it, Crowhurst Lane. But possibly because Crowhurst was the family who owned Whiffens Farm  |
| DRYLAND RD           | Named after Les Dryland, mainstay of village life & Parish Council, Fire Brigade   |
| HARRISON RD          | Local archaeologist, Mr. Benjamin Harrison of Ightham, fossils at IQW and Roman Burial at Roman Court <i>PP</i>  |
| LENDON RD            | <i>Possibly</i> Lendon-Smith owners of Basted Paper Mill , Lived in Basted House <i>SM</i>   |
| MCDERMOTT RD         | First BGPC Chairman 1934 Farmers & Landowners in the area  |
| MONCKTON RD          | Early owners of Basted Paper Mill in 1871 , donated Rec Woodland Walk <i>PP</i>  |
|                      |  |
|                      | <b>VALLEY VIEW ESTATE</b>  |
| CONYERD RD           | <i>Possibly</i> from "coney" (conie) old English for rabbit, local warrens<br><i>1501 "Conyerd-field east of the Shode (Bourne) " 1505 "Conyngerd", 1637 "Great Coney Earth" (SM, BW)</i>  |
| STALEYS RD/ACRE ***  | 1504-1606 Staley (Stayley) Brothers Borough Green Farmers and tile makers, now Borough Green House <i>JS SM***</i><br><i>(Early spelling Stayley) PP</i>   |
| TILTON RD            | <b>UNKNOWN</b>   |
| WYATT CLOSE          | <i>Possibly</i> Refers to the rebel (& Poet) Sir Thomas Wyatt who passed through Borough Green on the way to the Battle of Wrotham in 1554 at Battlefields, he was later hanged , drawn and quartered for treason at the Tower of London<br>Also comemorated in Wrotham "Thomas Wyatt Way" and Allington "Sir Thomas Wyatt" PH. <i>(LDW)</i> |
| <b>BELLOWS LANE</b>  | Named to commemorate the old Iron Works , bellows were used to run the forge, smelting local ironstone. <i>(LS)</i><br>Historic back to at least 1501, used to run to Rock Rd, its "ghosts" are the two Footpaths between Rock Rd and Staleys Acre, and Staleys Road <i>(BW)</i>   |
|                      |  |
|                      | <b>FAIRSEAT ESTATE</b>   |
| BROCKWAY             | After Brock Cottage. The building was originally the farm abattoir, but was converted to a dwelling by Mr Bayne-Powell when he moved his parents up from Brockhill in Devon, and they named it as Brock Cottage  |
| MOUNTFIELD           | After Mount House, owned by Robert & Nancy Bayne-Powell, who used to own the land. ( Mr McLintoch was an earlier owner of the land) <i>(SY)(LM)(BW)</i>  |
| NORMANHURST RD       | Estate builder Norman Estates <i>(RL)(LM)(SY)</i>  |
|                      |  |
|                      | <b>HAZELBOURNE ESTATE</b>  |
| HAZELBOURNE AVENUE   | Generic Develop er name, from Hazel tree & River Bourne  |
| BANGAYS WAY          | Frank Bangay, Parish Council, Village Hall, Rec, Potters Mede <i>(MT)</i>  |
| ISLES QUARRY RD      | Built on Isles Quarry West <i>(MT)</i>   |
| NISBETT DRIVE ***    | The Nisbetts took over Borough Green Farm in 1920 from Mr Biggs, an engineer who built his own traction engine in the barn near the Quarry Hill tree. Miss Nisbett was librarian from 1945 - 1958 <i>PP SM ***</i>   |

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|---|---|
|   | <b>CROWHILL RD/ CROWHILL</b>  |
|   | <b>Named after Crowhill open space, also known as "The Nob"</b>   |
| SANDY RIDGE   | <b>Built on a sand ridge, part of Crowhill</b>  |
| ASCOT CLOSE   | <b>Named by builder horse racing buff after racecourse (AC)</b>   |
| LINGFIELD RD  | <b>Named by builder horse racing buff after racecourse (AC)</b>   |
|   |   |
|   | <b>FAIRFIELD ESTATE ***</b>   |
| FAIRFIELD RD/GATE   | The original fruit orchard, known as Fairfield. Fairfield Rd and Western Rd were both farm tracks on Yew Tree Farm, and the farmhouse still exists as No26 <i>PP</i>  |
| DENE LODGE CLOSE  | The Dene was a large house at the rear of Fairfield, that burnt down in the 60s, the lodge is still there at the entrance to Westbank Care Home   |
| ROMAN COURT   | Named after Roman Burial ground on the site   |
|   |   |
|   | <b>PEARSALL PLACE</b>   |
|   | Named after Phyllis Pearsall, who founded the A-Z Geographers Company, once in Fairfield Rd on the old Novellos site  |
| NOVELLOS CLOSE  | Named after Novellos Music publishers who occupied the Talbot Landfill site   |
| TALBOT CLOSE  | Named after the owners of the sandpit to the North of Fairfield   |
|   |   |
|   | <b>TOLLGATE ESTATE OFF WROTHAM RD</b>   |
| TOLLGATE THE AVENUE<br>" THE CRESCENT<br>" THE CLOSE<br>" TOLLGATE MEWS | This was the site of a Tollgate where travellers were charged a toll to get to Wrotham, the whole estate was called "Tollgate" , but then renamed as three separate roads, Tollgate Mews being built some years later |
| TOLSEY MEAD   | Believed to be a corruption of Tollgate Meadow (above) <i>MM</i>  |
| WYE RD  | Named by builder horse racing buff after racecourse (AC)  |
| EAGLESTONE CLOSE  | A well known Potter named John Eaglestone lived on Wrotham Rd. <i>PP</i>  |
| ANNETTS HALL  | Named by builder horse racing buff after racing stables (AC)  |
| STONE COURT   | Named after Michael Stone, long term Parish Councillor, Farmer, and last Mayor of Malling Urban District Council. Freeman of the Borough (TMBC)   |
| CLOKE MEWS  | Named after the Cloke Family, who ran the store where the Robin Hood now stands. Bob Cloke was a founder member of the Fire Service, with Bill Kennett <i>PP</i>  |
| SPENCERS COTTAGES<br>(STATION RD)                                       | Named after the Platt Brickyard owner and builder of the High St between Nisa and the Village Hall , and Spencers Cottages <i>PP</i>  |
|   |   |
|   | <b>OFF MAIDSTONE RD</b>   |
| FOUR WENTS CLOSE  | The Crossroads was once called Four Wents, (from Old English "wendan")(CW)  |
| FOX LEA/GROVE   | Named after the Fox & Hounds PH (Fox Grove is developer name, Jones Homes)  |
| GRIGGS WAY  | Named after Lt Col FE Griggs, Parish Council, Village Hall and general benefactor   |
| HUNTS FARM CLOSE  | Built on Naylor's Hunts Farm  |
| HILLVIEW/HILLVIEW CLOSE   | Another reference to Crowhill, which can be seen from Hillview  |
| BLACK HORSE MEWS  | Named after Black Horse PH  |
| TILLMANS  | The site was a sandpit, then Tillmans factory renovating antiques and creating antique style furniture.   |
|   |   |
| <b>QHARRY HILL RD</b>   | Obviously, the hill up from the quarry (Basted/Stangate/Isles) (was originally High St South, and before that Thong Lane)   |
| ROCK RD   | Named after the huge Ragstone lump the Rock PH was built over   |
| THE LANDWAY   | Landway is a generic term for a track onto a farm, once Willard Haulage yard  |
| TAVERN CLOSE  | Named after the now demolished Rock Tavern, and once a mission hall   |
| CHAPEL STREET   | Now incorporated into Sevenoaks Rd, used to run from Rock PH to Red Lion, "Chapel" refers to the use of the Rock before it became a pub <i>PP</i>   |

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|------------------|---|
| MILLBOURNE PLACE | Developer name refers to Bourne River and Basted Mill   |
| ALLINGHAM WAY    | Named after Big Jim Allingham the last surviving quarryman who broke stone by hand  |
| THONG LANE       | Very old name, used to run to the Crossroads, renamed Quarry Hill Rd SM   |
| GEOGRAPHICAL     |   |
| BASTED LANE      | To Basted   |
| CROUCH LANE      | To Crouch (was Sandy Lane , then Blackhorse Lane)   |
| MAIDSTONE RD     | To Maidstone  |
| SEVENOAKS RD     | To Sevenoaks (was Chapel St and Borough Green Rd)   |
| STATION RD       | To the Station. Originally called Sandy Lane, it probably was part of Crouch Lane, also called Sandy Lane. It later became Forge Lane, the forge building still exists at Number 87 |
| WESTERN RD       | Road that ran West from the High St. Fairfield Rd and Western Rd were both farm tracks on Yew Tree Farm, and the farmhouse still exists as No26 Western Rd <i>PP</i>                |
| WROTHAM RD       | To Wrotham  |

### CREDITS

- MM Marjorie McAdam T&M Sketchbook  
 FB "Past & Present" by Frank Bangay, courtesy of Ian Bangay <https://bgphotos.wordpress.com/>  
 LDW "Law & Disorder in Wrotham" - Wrotham Historical Society  
 JS Jane Semple -Plaxtol Historical Society- "Medieval Tile Makers of Borough Green"  
 RL Ron Leonard , ex chair Fairseat Residents  
 SY Suzanne Young - Local History buff and genealogy adviser  
 AC Archie Copland Annetts Hall original resident. Builder of both Annetts Hall and Wye Rd, also built Lingfield Rd and Ascot Close was a horse racing fanatic. Annetts Hall was a racing stable, the others are racecourses.  
 BW Brian Whiston, extracts from Kent Archaeological Society  
 SM Sue Murray  
 LS Lionel Stielow. (Plaxtol resident - ex Borough Green)

### \*\*\* ADDITIONAL NOTES Sue Murray:

"**Staleys Road/Acre** - a little more flesh on the bones. Miss Nisbett spoke with me on a number of occasions re her house and garden and its origins. In 1540 - 1606 Borough Green Farm (now BG House) was owned by brothers Richard, Walter and William Staley and the 3 1/2 acres known as Staleys Acre. The farmhouse burnt down in the mid 1800s being replaced by the house that stands today. Miss Nisbett also recalled the planting of the oak tree on Coronation Day 1911 when as a small child she and her cousins, perched on the 5 bar gate in the pouring rain watching the ceremonial planting of the tree. Her father took over the tenancy of BG House in 1906, subsequently buying it in 1920."

**Nisbett Drive** - ref Traction Engine. I seem to remember being told that this engine was amongst the first to be built in the country and the wall at the front of the barn (now Apple Tree Cottage) had to be removed to get it out. If you look hard enough, you can still see the outline of the opening in the building today.

**Fairfield Estate** - was built on land owned by the Stone family, mainly a cherry orchard. In 1949 it was compulsory purchased on 1936 valuation causing Michael to spit fur and feathers as he recounted the story!

### LM Lucilla Mackay

In the late 1940s and early '50s the Normanhurst estate was a market garden which my father bought and ran for some years. He sold it to a Mr Naylor who lived in the farmhouse immediately opposite the B.G. end of Crouch Lane and the land behind the house was Naylor's too.

I believe that the Normanhurst name was from the name of the builder, Norman's.

Our house is called The Mount and our land runs right down to the back of the estate and, before the houses were built, to the market garden field - hence Mountfield. Brockway was indeed named after Brock Cottage which is an old building near the beginning of that road. It was an old slaughterhouse which my father bought and converted. He installed his elderly parents there so that he was nearby. His parents used to live in Devon at a house called

Brockhill, so Brock Cottage was a reminder of their former home.

I had explained to Mike that Mountfield was called after Mount House (now called The Mount) and was land owned by my father. What I failed to say in my email to Mike about this was that my parents were Robert and Nancy **Bayne-Powell** and not McClintock.

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**LS - Lionel Stielow.**

There were 5 Oxley sisters, Dennis Taylor's mother and his Aunt Marjory. The other three Aunts , May , Maud and Dorothy, who never married, were well known in the Village as "The Miss Oxleys". In the mid 1930s they commissioned Curtis and Caine's (later FP Caine's) to build the house at Windy Nob. In 1968 Dorothy died, and as she was the only Aunt still mobile, the remaining two moved to a Nursing Home and gave the house to Dennis. Lionel moved in a year later, and stayed until he married in 1972.

Dennis discovered the name "Bellows Lane" on an old Ordnance Survey map, and had a sign made when in dispute about a wall, in the hope the Council might presume the road was a highway and act to move the wall. The "bellows" referred to bellows used in an old ironworks somewhere in the vicinity of the sandpit, using local ironstone, and the soft sand for casting

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**SY Suzanne Young (nee Leonard)**

I have now gone through your list of names and it has brought back my own memories of Borough Green. The shops that have come and gone, the Post Office being at Clokes (I loved Clokes), the wool shop, Bates toy shop, the craft shop at the bottom of Station Road, Cave Austins, Liptons and the butchers at Fourways that had sawdust on the floor and the lady sitting in her little booth taking the money, to mention a few that come to mind.

I also remember the library being at the back of the village hall, Butterworths book publishers at Basted, Novello's, Tillmans and the caravan place that was also on this site and all the pubs that have now gone, I miss the old Borough Green and feel that it is becoming more of a town and not a village, but I suppose that's progress as they say!

I have updated your list (green print) but if you are not happy with anything, please take it out. I have just tried to enhance what you had and to provide a few historic notes. Many who live in Borough Green today will have no idea of the history behind the name of their road.

Here are a few notes:

1) Woodlands Estate (Abbott, Crowhurst, Dryland, Lendon, Harrison, McDermott and Monckton) - the roads were all named after people connected with the village. I just need to do some further research on Abbott, Lendon and McDermott and I think I remember coming across a couple of the names in the papers when I was doing the memorial research. If I do discover anything further I will get back to you.

2) Fairseat Estate (Brockway, Normanhurst and Mountfield) - What I have put against these are just my thoughts and what has been said to me in the past. I have not found any proof of why these roads are called what they are (I've even looked at Dad's original house deeds to see if there were any clues - nothing).

3) Valley View Estate (Conyerd, Staleys, Tilton and Wyatt) - I thought these were named after people but I have been unable to expand on these at the moment although Wyatt, I believe, is a family name in the village - maybe there is a connection with someone but can't prove it. Go with what you've got.

4) Annetts Hall and Wye Road - no idea at the moment.

5) Isles Quarry Road - thought you might be able to put a date against this. It does not seem all that long ago, but has probably been there longer than I think!

Also, I know about Catherine Ann Crowe (nee Stevens) - novelist and playwright who was born in Borough Green as this is mentioned in Frank Bangay's book. However whilst researching I came across a couple of other names that were born in Borough Green, did you know about them?

1) Richard Newland Dixon (British Chemist) - noted for his work in the field of thermal and optical properties of matter.

2) Richard William Hills - Kent County Cricket Player