

Berkhamsted Street Names

Some consternation was aroused by the Urban Council's recent announcement that a new cul-de-sac on the Durrants Estate would be named "Coronation Close." It was not a happy choice, and the Council sportingly invited the Citizens' Association to submit alternative names.

Edlyn Close, suggested by Mr. A. Williams, was unanimously adopted. William Edlyn and his son John, who lived at Norcott Hill in early Stuart days, should certainly be remembered, for their brave leadership and stubborn opposition saved 400 acres of Berkhamsted Common from enclosure over two centuries before Augustus Smith similarly championed the commoners' rights.

As the subject of street names is of perennial interest, I have compiled what may be called an historical directory. Certain streets are necessarily excluded, for there is little or nothing to say about Queen's Road, Holly Drive, Clarence Road and other names which could have been given to any street, anywhere.

The list will be continued in next month's *Review*. Additional names and corrections will be welcomed.

ALMA ROAD (Northchurch).—A popular Victorian name, commemorating Battle of Alma (Crimean War, 1854).

ASHLYNS.—Named after Asselyn family (Reginald Asselyn, 1314).

BANK MILL LANE.—Named after one of our two "Domesday Book" watermills—Lower Mill, or "Banckes Mill," to quote an old spelling. This lane probably follows the line of the Roman Akeman Street, which, east of Berkhamsted, ran on the north side of the Bulbourne.

BEDFORD STREET.—Little turning off George Street; another family name.

BELL LANE (Northchurch).—Recalls days when "Bell" public-house (now a shop), stood at corner of lane.

BELTON ROAD.—Named after Belton, Lincolnshire seat of Brownlow family. This little road (off Billet Lane) would have been a right of way through allotment-gardens to a recreation ground stretching as far as Lower King's Road had the inhabitants accepted this offer from Earl Brownlow in 1865 in lieu of common

rights—but we lost the proposed recreation ground and allotments, and retained Berkhamsted Common.

BOURNE ROAD.—A modern road (on Durrants Estate) named after Thomas Bourne, who gave Berkhamsted a charity school in the 18th century.

BOXWELL ROAD.—Takes name from Boxwells, or Boxwell House. Formerly a gated drive to the stables of Boxwell House and the "Lamb" public-house.

BRIDGEWATER ROAD.—Named after Earls and Dukes of Bridgewater, who lived at Ashridge for over 200 years.

BROWNLOW ROAD.—Another (and literally direct) connection with Ashridge. In the 1860's, Earl Brownlow, of Ashridge, was responsible for building several roads to and across the Common, including New Road.

CASTLE STREET.—An obvious name! Our oldest side-street, sometimes called Castle Lane in old documents.

CHARLES STREET.—Formerly a rough track called Greenway Lane (old spelling, Gerewey Lane). See Doctors Commons Road.

CHESHAM ROAD.—Originally Grubb's Lane or Elvey (or Elvyne) Lane. Old spellings: Elwynslane (1525), Grublane (1608). Name changed to Chesham Road when it carried heavy traffic between Chesham (which had no railway station until late Victorian days) and the old railway station at Berkhamsted. Chesham returned the compliment by naming part of its main street Berkhamsted Road.

COBB ROAD.—Durrants Estate road, named after Rev. John Wolstenholme Cobb, curate at Northchurch, and afterwards curate and rector (1871-83) of Berkhamsted. Author of "History of Berkhamsted."

COWPER ROAD.—A name Berkhamsted could not possibly forget! But in the days of William Cowper, the poet, it was pasture land, and known in Victorian days as Steele's Meadow.

CROSS OAK ROAD.—Formerly Gilham's or Gillam's Lane, obviously an old family name. Cross Oak Road is popularly thought to take its name from an old oak tree (long since blown down) shaped like a cross. But it has been suggested that the name is derived from the de Cruce family, who lived near the junction of this road with Shootersway. Robert de Cruce's name appears in a document of 1307.

CURTIS WAY.—Appropriately named, for this road (off Swing Gate Lane) is on the old Hall estate, which for many years was owned by the Curtis family. One member was a High Sheriff of Hertfordshire; another was the Rev. H. G. Constable-Curtis, rector of St. Peter's, 1902-8.

DARR'S LANE (Northchurch).—Presumably an old family name.

DOCTORS COMMONS ROAD.—Named after a field called Doctors Commons, on south side of Charles Street. It was originally intended to call Charles Street (or part of Charles Street) Doctors Commons Road.

DUNCOMBE ROAD (Northchurch).—Recalls old Northchurch family who for many years lived at Lagley. An old document refers to the enlargement of an old farm-house, thereafter called Northchurch Hall, by William Duncombe in 1760.

DURRANT'S.—The Durrants (early spellings include Durance), a family of local farmers, have achieved great fame, for their name has been given to the Council's new estate. We have a Durrant's Road and a Durrant's Lane, the latter sometimes known as Woodcock Hill, and, in earlier times, as Franky Moore's Lane, after a former land-owner.

EDDY STREET.—Little turning off Gossoms Lane; probably a family name.

EDLYN CLOSE.—New cul-de-sac on Durrant's Estate. William Edlyn, of Norcott Hill, and his son John, were largely instrumental in the saving a large part of the Common from enclosure in the 17th century. William Edlyn directed "a disciplined force of a hundred men," who pulled down hedges, rails and fences. Augustus Smith, over 200 years later, similarly saved the Common from enclosure.

EGERTON ROAD.—A new Dell Field Estate road, named after Thomas Egerton, Lord High Chancellor, who purchased Ashridge in early 17th century. He was created Baron Ellesmere and Viscount Brackley.

ELLESMERE ROAD.—Another name which recalls Thomas Egerton, or Baron Ellesmere. His son was the first Earl of Bridgewater.

FOGGY BOTTOM.—Old-established nickname for Provident Place.

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:—

February 1-7: Figg.
February 8-14: Dickman.
February 15-21: Taylors.
February 22-28: Boots.

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.

The question of the payment of extra rent by Council tenants who provide accommodation for lodgers is to be discussed at the February meeting of the Berkhamsted Housing Committee.

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