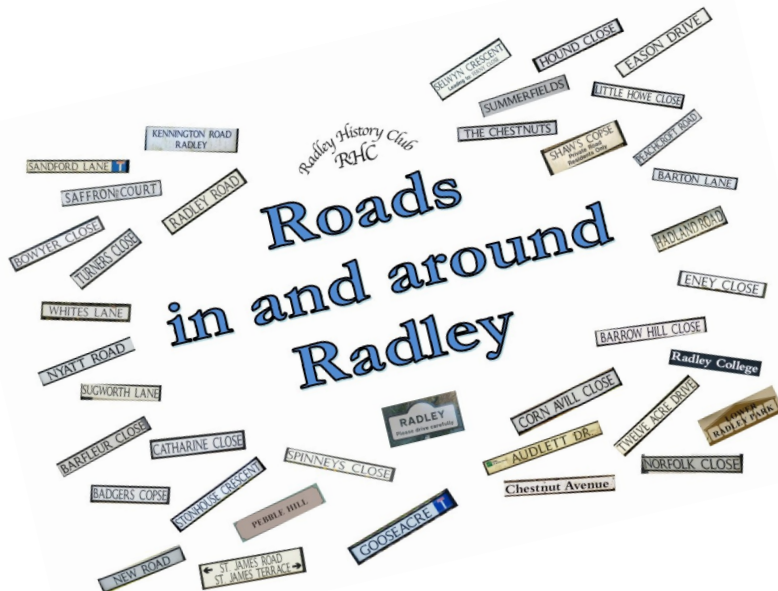


Roads in Radley in 2010

The text and images in this document are taken from the book, *Roads in and around Radley*, published by Radley History Club in 2010. The book is now out of print but an electronic version survives.

This extract from the original book is about the roads in Radley that existed in 2010. The original book extended beyond the village of Radley to cover roads in housing developments built on fields that were, until 1987, in the civil parish of Radley and thus had associations with the village.

The pages are as published in 2010 apart from some minor editing to clarify and correct the text in the light of newer knowledge.



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To the right is an early picture of the road past Spinney's Cottage and Nos 46 and 48 Lower Radley. The picture above was taken in 2010.



Lower Radley

The area from Radley Station bridge to the River Thames is known as Lower Radley. Many of the older houses of the village are found here.

Below is a picture of Peacock Cottage in Lower Radley taken in the early 20th century.

To the right is a picture showing the same cottage taken from the village green in 2010.

The seats on the village green commemorate David Buckle's 52 years membership, including chairmanship, of Radley Parish Council.



Shaws Copse

Above

This used to be the main road to the station for all passengers and vehicles, but can no longer be used. Mrs Sue Shaw was a well-known member of the village and was editor of *Radley News* for many years.

Lower Radley Park

Left

This mobile home park is situated on land previously owned by the Shaw family who had a sawmill on the site.





Badgers Copse

Left

Badgers Copse was the marketing name of the developer, Penta Properties, and the Parish Council thought that it was ideal for the area as it fitted in well with **Gooseacre** and **Foxborough Road**.

Catharine Close

Right

It is thought that this Close was named after William Dockar-Drysdale's daughter Catharine Eirene (Kitty), who died in 1939 at the age of 36. The houses were built by Mr Drew in about 1960 on land previously owned by the Dockar-Drysdals. During the mid-20th century, local children played in this area and called it the 'cornfield' even though no crops were grown there. Once a year, a small fair visited and set up its stalls there for a week.

Church Road



According to the Radley tithe map of 1849, Church Road began by Dawson's Cottage in Lower Radley and went through the village to the church.



Left, right and below

This road leads from Foxborough Road to St. James' Church. The photograph on the left shows the road going past the Post Office in 2010 and the one below the same view in the 1930s.

Upper Radley

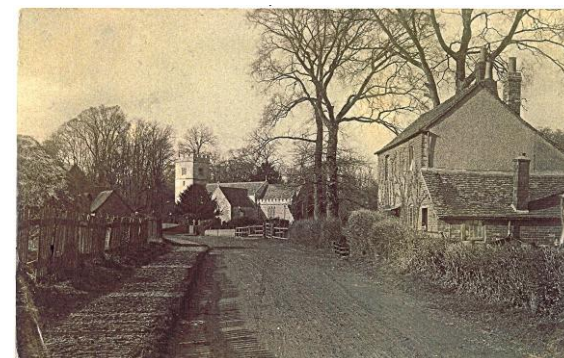
Bowyer Close

Right

Named after the Bowyer family who inherited the manor house and park from the Stonhouse family when the estate passed in 1795 to Admiral Sir George Bowyer, the son of Sir George Bowyer and his wife Ann (née Stonhouse).



This is the main part of the village and where the primary school, the station, the pub, the community shop, the village hall and the church are located.



The pictures above are of Church Road near the church in the early 20th century and the same road in 2010 by when the house in the foreground had been demolished.

Drysdale Close

Below

The Parish Council chose this name, rejecting Field View and Oxonia Close from the three suggested by the developers, Kibswell Homes Ltd. The road is named after the Dockar-Drysdale family. Willam Dockar bought Wick Farm in 1850; after he died in 1882, his daughter Josephine Dockar-Drysdale, the widow of Andrew Drysdale, transformed the farmhouse into Wick Hall. Josephine bought a considerable amount of property and land in Radley when the Bowyer estate was sold in 1889. By the time of her death in 1921 she had acquired almost all the land and cottages previously owned by the Bowyer family.



Foxborough Road

Above are bungalows opposite the station entrance, which were built by a Mr Allen on land he had purchased from the Dockar-Drysdals. The road going up to the railway bridge can just be seen in the distance. Above right are the same bungalows in 2010.



Ferny Close

Above

This Close was built by J. A. Pye (Oxford) Limited in the late 1960s. On the 1849 tithe map of Radley, Ferny was the name of a field off Sugworth Lane.



The road is almost certainly named after a field called 'Foxboro' that is shown on the 1849 tithe map. The southern edge of this field ran along the north side of the current Foxborough Road. The 1633 terrier has a field in a similar location called 'Foxburrow'. Putting these two pieces of evidence together, it is likely the road name derives from an area where foxes tended to make their earths.



Gooseacre

Left

There has been a farm on Thrupp Lane called Gooseacre for many years. In the 1633 Terrier (survey), Gooseacre Copse was near to the present-day Foxborough Road. The Village Hall and playing field are situated in Gooseacre. In her field names study of 1983, Patricia Groser remarked that, during the very hot summer of 1976 and amidst the golden brown of baked earth and desiccated grass, the playing field by the village hall remained green. At one time this land was used by Radley College to grow vegetables for their kitchen and the fact that it was a wetter area might have been very beneficial.



Little Howe Close

Left

In about 1974 as a result of a questionnaire asking for suggestions about preserving things of historical interest, Patricia Groser replied proposing that old names should always be considered where possible when naming roads. The first attempt fell with rather a thud though as Little Home Close was interpreted by the then parish clerk as Little Howe Close. He did not wish to reverse the process so the name remains.

On early maps the field by the name Little Home was situated in about the same place as the road is now. It was part of Church Farm on the 1849 tithe map.



New Road

Right and above

Radley remained a very small community until the first larger scale development came in the 1930s when bungalows were built in Foxborough Road and a new road came into existence called New Road.



Images & Voices, Oxfordshire County Council



Norfolk Close

Above

Situated off Thrupp Lane, this Close got its name from the Norfolk reed used to thatch Norfolk Cottage, which originally stood on this site. The photograph below shows this cottage, which burnt down on 8 May 1985, at the corner of Thrupp Lane and Foxborough Road.





Radley Road

Nowadays Radley Road stretches from the Catholic Church in Abingdon to the junction of Whites Lane, Foxborough Road and Thrupp Lane in Radley. Some years ago it only went as far as 'Dead Man's Corner', which today is the sharp bend just before Twelve Acre Drive when coming from Abingdon (pictured above). At that time the section of Radley Road going from there to the Whites Lane/Foxborough Road/Thrupp Lane junction was called The Long Road.

In May 1879 Charles Percival Potts, an Oxford undergraduate was driving a hired dog cart to Abingdon from Oxford when the horse rounded the sharp bend in Radley Road too quickly. Charles was thrown from the cart and was killed. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death and recommended that Sir George Bowyer should be asked for a strip of land to make the bend safer as there had been several accidents there. Perhaps that is how the bend got its name.



Selwyn Crescent

Below

This road was named after Revd Edward Gordon Selwyn, who was warden of Radley College from 1913 to 1918. After leaving Radley, he served as a Chaplain to the Forces before becoming Rector of Havant (in Hampshire) and then Dean of Winchester.



Spinneys Close

Above

This road was named after 'Spinney' Comley a local resident who kept Radley neat and tidy and the ditches clear. His actual name was Herbert George Comley; he obtained this nickname either as a result of living at Spinneys Cottage in Lower Radley or because he could 'spin a yarn'. He worked initially as a farm labourer.

St James Road and St James Terrace

Left

St James Road was the first to be built in Radley by J. A. Pye (Oxford) Ltd in the early 1960s. It was named after the village church, whose patron saint is St James the Great, one of Jesus' disciples.

Stonhouse Crescent

Right

George Stonhouse was a Clerk of the Green Cloth to Queen Elizabeth I and bought the manor of Radley from the Crown in 1560. In the 1720s, his great-great grandson Sir John Stonhouse built Radley Hall, which later became the Mansion House at Radley College.



Turner Close

Right

Turner is a long-standing family name in the village and the Parish Council was unanimous in choosing it for this road. Walter James 'Wally' Turner was a signalman at Radley Station and had many interesting tales to tell about life on the railway. His three brothers, John, Alfred and Michael followed in their father Alfred's footsteps and also worked on the railway.

The developers originally chose Foxborough Place but the Post Office thought that it would cause confusion. Vixen Close was suggested but this met with disapproval.



Thrupp Lane

Below

This road leads to Gooseacre and Home Farms, and then to Tuckwells' gravel processing base and an industrial site. A byway continues to Radley Lakes and the hamlet of Thrupp.

The area is of much archaeological interest and some interesting prehistoric and more recent artefacts have been found here, demonstrating that it had been inhabited for many centuries.



Whites Lane

Left

This road, which runs round the edge of the village from the junction with Foxborough Road to the church, may take its name from the White family, who were farmers in Radley in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The trees bordering the road on the Radley College side of Whites Lane were planted by the Stonhouse family to shield themselves from the village. The avenue of hornbeam trees that runs from the corner of Whites Lane to Radley College was planted in about 1925 when Mr Francis J. Nugee, who had moved into what is now G Social at the College, tried to persuade the council that a new approach to the College was desirable. Permission was never received to create this entrance.



Radley College

A school was established at Radley Hall in 1819 but it only lasted until 1844. In 1847 St Peter's College opened and this later became known as Radley College. It is a boarding school for about 600 boys between the ages of 13 and 18.

Some roads at the College have been named. For example, Church Walk, Lower and Upper Shrubby, Walled Gardens and Chestnut Avenue.

The photograph above shows the entrance to Radley College in 2010. Below is a photograph taken in about 1900 from the opposite direction.



Chestnut Avenue

Above

There are many chestnut trees in the grounds of Radley College, especially the famous avenue of trees stretching from the Radley Oak and the College golf course to Lodge Hill.



Walled Gardens

Above

This road was built on the site of the old kitchen gardens and greenhouses.



Kennington Road

Above

This road leads from Whites Lane in Radley to Kennington. In 1798, Admiral Sir George Bowyer planted a great avenue of elm trees, which went through Kennington, to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile. The elm trees on Kennington Road were a well-known and well-loved feature until Dutch elm disease destroyed them.



Sandford Lane

Above

This road formed the boundary between Kennington and Radley. Across the river at the end of the Lane is Sandford-on-Thames. The original parish of Radley included the hamlet of Kennington, but on 1 April 1936 Kennington became a separate civil parish.

Radley near
Kennington



Sugworth Lane

Above

Sugworth Lane, a turning off Kennington Road, is a long road running past Sugworth Farm. This farm was part of the manor of Sugworth, which was bought by William Stonhouse in 1614. His family continued to be the owners until the Bowyer family inherited it. In 1900 Mrs Josephine Dockar-Drysdale bought the farm and surrounding land from Mary Bowyer's trustees. In recent years it has been owned by various people. Sugworth Crescent, also off Kennington Road, is a neighbouring road to Sugworth Lane.



Sugworth Crescent

Above



Pebble Hill Mobile Home Park

Right

This site, off Kennington Road at the top of the hill from Radley, has 104 homes. It is owned and managed by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The site is named after a field called 'Pebble Hill' shown on the 1849 tithe map as being on the other side of the road to Kennington. It seems likely this field got its name because it was gravelly. The road around and through the site is also called Pebble Hill.

In 1938 Bill Dockar-Drysdale opened up the site as a summer holiday camp for boys known as 'Big Wood Camp'. It was very popular and boys came from all over the world to experience life in the outdoors. During the Second World War, it housed boys who were there under a YMCA scheme known as 'British Boys for British Farms'. Evacuees also lived there from 1940. After the war the site became a family holiday camp and later the Pebble Hill residential site.



Mobile home parks in north Radley

All three are permanent residential sites situated in what was once part of Radley Large Wood. The entrance to the remaining part is further along Sugworth Lane past Bigwood Park.

Bigwood Park

Left

This privately owned site on Sugworth Lane opened in 1963.



Woodlands Park

Left

This site, whose entrance is also off Kennington Road but closer to Kennington than that for Pebble Hill, is owned and managed by the Vale of White Horse District Council. It has 113 homes on it. The name and its road names reflect the area it is in. The roads are Sycamore Crescent, Fir Trees, Hazelnut Path, Oak Avenue, Blossoms Glade, Willow Way and Bluebell Ride.