

Acc 2297
Oxford Mail article 4 February 1955
Summary of historical references

Recreation Ground

This was on the site of the Primary School, but had been acquired by the local authority before 1950 for the site of a comprehensive school, leaving Wheatley without their own recreation ground. The offer by the school to use their ground had been 'withdrawn' by 1955.

Alderman William Tombs

1. Stated to be the first chairman of the Parish Council 23 years ago. (Wheatley Parish Council was formed on 3rd March 1932 in the Merry Bells. On 12th April 1932 Mr William Tombs was appointed as Chairman with Mr William Slatter was appointed as Vice Chairman.)
2. Tombs stated that 110 council houses had been erected as of 1955.
3. Population had risen over the last 25 years from 900 to 1670.
4. Now only 3 farms, one of which Rectory Farm, owned by Greaves, of 420 acres.
5. Only village in England with a thatched bank.
6. Only 'blot' is the rag and bone factory, but the licence comes up for renewal in September, and may not be renewed.

Mr Roberts, owner of Holton Mill

1. Makes and sells Melrose tablets for the relief of chapped hands.
2. Has a controlling interest in Brookside Garage on the London Road next door to a café called 'Last Chance'.
3. Mentions the wrought iron sign on Kings Arms; the model bakery; and the old churchyard, where the children used to dig up the skulls and roll them down the street.
4. Refers to what was left of the village green.
5. Refers to what was left of the Breech field, said to date back to 5th century and where there had been a tannery business.
6. Refers to doctor's house, 116 Church Road, once an offshoot of The Crown.
7. Refers to four postmen at the time, two deliveries a day, 20 mile 'round'.
8. Never seen so many cats.
9. Reference to one-storey, uneven tiled, whitewashed Cromwell House (shown as Cottage) with a corner cupboard there 'forever' and a Cromwellian rapier found in a scrap heap.

Tom Barlow, a small-holder with 10 acres, two cows and some pigs, was threatened with ruin due to a housing scheme. Land now Barlow Close.

Advertisements

1. Bridge Hotel, established 1729
2. William Avery, timber merchants, manufacturers of chairs, coffin boards, weatherboards. Oak posts & fencing supplies.
3. Three Pigeons filling station at Great Milton.
4. Samuels, family butchers.
5. Plough Inn
6. Dodds Modern Bakery
7. W Tombs & Son, coal and coke merchant
8. Merriman, Littleworth pig and poultry farm.