

# Inside Edge

## Remembering place names

I suppose it would be in the late sixties that the roads and names of the village were rationalised. It probably made sense to clarify where roads started and ended, however it did mean that we lost several place names that had been around for many years. Jobs Pool, Lane Ends, School Bank, are probably still well known but others have also been lost over time such as Sparrow Park, The War Moors, Grannies Bank, Grannies Corner, Big Rocks, Little Rocks, The Clods and the Hollow.

I remember the Parish Council discussing what to call the lane from Lane Ends to the Rocks. I say discussing but it ended up in a right row. Some Councillors wanted it to be Lane Ends Lane, some thought that this was "daft." Councillor Hammond brought deeds which showed it used to be called both Quarry Lane and also Between the Walls. The solution was a typical fudge in that it was agreed, after several months, that Church Road was the best idea. Which caused much resentment with the people that lived there and the sign had to be fixed to the wall repeatedly after it mysteriously kept falling off!

Some names just changed a bit and grew legs! What we now call Sytch Road, has taken its name from The Sytch which is really just the sharp bend at the start of Sytch Road before Grannies Bank and School Lane. Lane Ends and then School Bank which wasn't a bank at all! Church Lane was in there somewhere as well before becoming Church Road.

Another problem road was what we now call Top Chapel Lane. Again Councillors were challenged by this one. It was known as Fosters Row (or Mouses Row), The Clods and Pidgeon Croft at the far end. From Memory I also seem to remember someone calling it the "Far Piece" as well. I think this was easier to resolve and Top Chapel Lane was a good solution.

Personally I would like to see some type of "Blue Plaque" to record these old names. I have always been intrigued by the name The War Moors which is the field next to the Holly Bush Playing Fields joining on to the Sytch.

## Some more dialect words

Word	Meaning	Derivation
backbiters	loose skin on fingernail	
back-end	autumn	OE
backstan	where you bake bread	OE <i>bac stan</i>
bagging	Take food to work	
bait	Food you eat outside	Norse <i>beita</i>
bonk	Hill or house <i>Thee cust get thesell off the bonk</i>	
bartered-up bautered-up	splashed with mud	
bass	poor coal	
baum	plastered	
beck	peak of a cap	ME <i>bec</i>
bedfast	bed ridden	
beestings	first milk from a newly calved cow	
bellock	cow bloating	
belong	its strange but people belong to a place or property <i>thee cust get back to where you belong dine yen!</i>	
belter	something big and probably good as well	
bing	trough in front of cows	Norse <i>bingr</i>
blart	a child crying like a calf after its mother	OE <i>blaten</i>
blaitch	slap or hit	ME <i>blenchen</i>
blather	talking nonsense	ME <i>blather</i>
bleb	Pimple	
bloat	A cow mooing excessively	
bobbing off	playing truant	ME <i>boben</i>
bodge	to proke a hole	
boffle	a chimney boffles back	
bonny clap-	Sour milk	
boskin	stalls or partitions between cows	
bottle, not much	not very good	
bull-nogger	Millers thumb (type of fish)	

# Back Tracks

Looking at an old map of 1843 that I have received for Christmas, reveals several interesting aspects of our village. Firstly the most obvious is how similar the names of the surrounding area and the farms are to today, and secondly it is fascinating to see just how detailed these maps were and although they didn't have contour lines as we know them today they did have lines showing the "lay of the land".

A name that seems to have been lost is Horse Pasture Wood which was off Willfield Lane probably where the new bungalows were built. I say "new" as they are referred to, but of course it must be 45 years since Harold Bourne built them and named the street Caroline Crescent after his wife, Caroline Matthews. He also named Leonard Drive after his Father.



The Bourne Family of course have lived at Brown Edge for many generations and I have recently added them to the "Brown Edge Families Tree" which has caused a Don Hastings from Canada to contact me to ask me to search for a Henry (Harry) Bourne, b. 1891 as he believed his grandfather came from Brown Edge.

Sure enough I found him living at Hobbs House in the 1911 census

*Father George Bourne b 1851*

*Mother Sarah born Leistershire, Appleby 1847*

*Phoebe Wileman b Derbyshire, Oakthorpe (Sarah's mother was living with them)*

*Sister Nellie b 1889*

I contacted Don with this information and he replied

*Pete;*

*This is fantastic !!!*

*My mother and her younger brother who is still living will be elated when I pass this information along. Even as young children they, and also my grandmother Bourne I believe weren't aware of grampa's roots in Staffordshire. They knew that he emigrated from there but there were no other specifics that I'm aware of. He wasn't the type of person that spoke about it.*



He then sent a photograph with the following letter

*Hi Pete;*

*Hope you and your family have had a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year.*

*I had this photo of my grandfather and thought you would be interested in receiving for your local heritage files. Apologies for the quality though, it's not the greatest !*

*I'd assume that he would be late teens or early twenties; about the time in his life when he was considering emigrating to Canada. My mother (who is still with us) and her younger brother both have said that he decided that he did not want to go to work in the coal mines which, as you know, was a very common way to make living in the area, hence the decision to come to Canada.*

*I believe the picture was taken in England.*

*I'm working on a summary of first and second generation descendants as I'd mentioned in an earlier email. Once, organized I'll forward to you.*

*Best Regards,*

*Don*

Neamiah is an unusual name but has been used extensively by the Bourne family which I have traced back to Josiah Bourne 1726 born Norton. For those interested, the "Brown Edge Families Tree" can be accessed either via [Browndedge.com](http://Browndedge.com) or <http://northstaffs.tribalpages.com/>