

**The Duffield Place, Howard Cornish Road, Fettiplace Road and Orchard Way Developments.**

This article was requested after the recent Marcham Society exhibition in the Church (May 2005). Whilst looking at the maps on display showing the 'new development' mentioned in the title, I related a conversation which I had had with the late Harry Dyer about the land on which this development is built. I was surprised to find that the information I had was not common knowledge.

The problem is now, after a lapse of probably twenty years, I am able only to give my recollections of this conversation. I should have written everything down at the time. This is the information, as I remember it, other people might have other information, or information which conflicts with this account, I am more than willing to concede that their versions might be more accurate, and would be glad to hear their them to get a better picture for future reference.

Harry Dyer farmed the area on which this development is built, the farm house being in the Gap. In the early 1960s, with farming becoming less profitable, and Harry getting older, he decided to sell off some of his land for housing. He had plans drawn up for, I think, about six large houses to be built on the area which is now Duffield Place. The then Abingdon Borough Council rejected the plans. Two years later the Abingdon Borough Council put a compulsory purchase order on this land and the land on which Fettiplace Road, the Duffield Place end of Howard Cornish Road, Haines Court and Marcham School stands. This was a large part of Harry's farm, he then made the decision to sell the majority of the farm land and he got permission to sell the land for development on which the private houses in Howard Cornish Road, Morland Road, Elwes Road and the bottom end of Orchard Way are built. Harry was now content to farm the small area left. He had plans drawn up for the development of the top end of Orchard Way and Tower Close, but did not intend to implement them for another twenty years. However, he was asked to sell another small plot of land, for what purpose, I cannot recall, something to do with pipes, I believe. At this point he decided to develop the top end of Orchard Way, Tower Close and the three houses 24 a, b and c at the top of Fettiplace Road.



When I moved into my house in Orchard Way in 1975 four years after they were built, I still had problems with mail and found that there were two entries in the 'phone book for 9, Orchard Way. The confusion occurred because when the second half of the road was built, the houses were re-numbered, what was number nine became number twenty.

Another interesting piece of information, I am able to verify myself. When the chalet bungalows in Orchard Way were finished in 1971, I visited some friends who lived in the one nearest to the school playing field. During the evening, we walked down to the

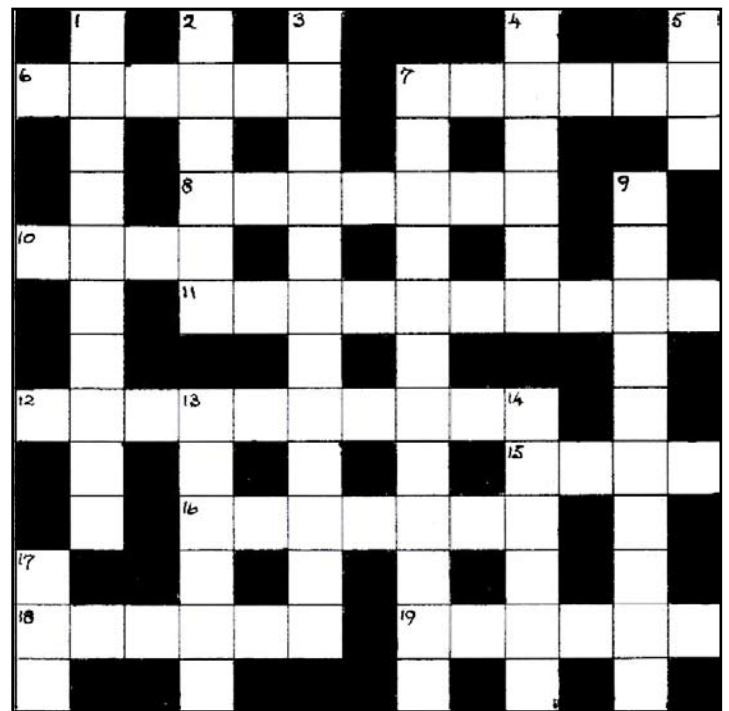
pub. At this time the alley going through to the Gap from Fettiplace Road, was much wider, as the three houses numbers 24 a,b and c had not yet been built. There was a large hedge which went down through the path way and which went right across Fettiplace Road, cutting it off from Orchard Way. By the time I moved to the village in 1975, the alleyway was as it is today.

When you drive up Fettiplace Road, or walk up there look out for the dip which goes right across the road by the alley way, this is where the roots of the old hedge have obviously rotted after the road was built over the area the hedge occupied, thus causing the road to subside. The hedge was removed because the residents of Fettiplace Road objected to it as they felt it denied them access through this way into Orchard Way and out through Howard Cornish Road.

Does anyone else have information regarding this area? I would like to hear about it to enable me to write a more detailed account. Our today is someone else's history, it would be good to have a more detailed account for Marcham Society Archives.

Please contact me, Cheryl Sewell, on 391200.

**CROSSWORD BY ALISA**



- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>             | <b>DOWN</b>                    |
| 6 Vegetable (6)           | 1 Village near Dorchester (10) |
| 7 Bar for steering (6)    | 2 Building support (6)         |
| 8 Shellfish (7)           | 3 A way to get to Witney (6,6) |
| 10 Tailpiece (4)          | 4 Nearer (6)                   |
| 11 E.g. Wellingtonia (10) | 5 Thirsty (3)                  |
| 12 Heartbeat speeds (5,5) | 7 Leafy bit of Marcham (3,9)   |
| 15 Part of a wheel (4)    | 9 Place of pilgrimage (10)     |
| 16 List of prices (7)     | 13 Courtney or Wick (6)        |
| 15 Saunter (6)            | 14 Foul smell (6)              |
| 19 Racing vehicle (6)     | 17 Exploit (3)                 |