

12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

CWPC Full Council meeting

Background

Bewley Homes the developers of the Chilvester Hill site have got I touch requesting that we come up with suggestions for the road name for the development. They have asked for 2/3 names to be suggested by us to be considered by Wiltshire Council.

Having received this request I made the initial decision to confer with Calne TC to see if they had a name list that might possibly give us a starting point.

Mark Edwards and Cllr Havenith who is the ward member for Chilvester and Abberd ward have both provided significant background information along with a number of suggestions.

I provide their background information and suggestions as provided to me for your considerations;

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Having done a quick search there might be some with connection to the Chilvester estate/Berhills

Crewe

Milnes

Noyes

Littlecot

Thornborough

Norris

North of the Marden an estate called *CHILVESTER*, then reputed a manor, was held by Thomas Norris at his death in 1489. Norris's heir was his grandniece Alice Littlecott [\(fn. 101\)](#) (d. by 1522), the wife of Robert Thornborough (d. 1522), and the estate passed in turn to her son William Thornborough [\(fn. 102\)](#) (d. 1535) and William's son John, [\(fn. 103\)](#) who sold it c. 1594 to William Foreman. [\(fn. 104\)](#) From Foreman's death in 1609 the estate was held in dower by his relict Henrica (fl. 1632), who married Richard Ernle, [\(fn. 105\)](#) and it passed in turn to William's son William (d. 1636) and that William's son William Foreman. [\(fn. 106\)](#) The legend IN 1669 on a weathervane on a stable range of Chilvester House (formerly Chilvester Hill House) [\(fn. 107\)](#) suggests that Israel Noyes (fl. 1672) [\(fn. 108\)](#) held the estate, which in 1728, consisting of the house and 32 a., belonged to that or another Israel Noyes. [\(fn. 109\)](#) The estate belonged to Israel Noyes until 1739 or earlier and to a Mr. Noyes until 1770. By 1771 it had been acquired by Richard Gale, and in 1784-5 it passed, presumably by sale, from Gale to Hugh Beames (d. 1807-8). Hugh was succeeded by his son George, who held the estate until 1833 or later. [\(fn. 110\)](#) In 1843 it belonged to William Gundry [\(fn. 111\)](#) (d. 1853), whose trustees sold it to Henry, marquess of Lansdowne, in 1853. [\(fn. 112\)](#) The estate has not been traced further. Chilvester House was largely rebuilt in the earlier 19th century. The new house, which was on an L plan and has a main five-bayed south front of ashlar with restrained neoclassical details, apparently incorporates part of the old house as its north-west wing. In the mid or later 19th century the house was extended westwards by one bay and large ground-floor canted bays were added on the main front.

A pasture called Bury hill, lying south of the Chilvester estate and the London-Bristol road, c. 1520 belonged to the guardians of Robert Hungerford, the lord of Studley manor. [\(fn. 113\)](#) It descended with the manor in the Hungerford family and in the mid or later 17th century was part of *BERHILLS* farm. [\(fn. 114\)](#) The farm, 141 a. in

1728 and 200 a. in 1843, also included land in Calne's open fields or land allotted to replace it. [\(fn. 115\)](#) The farm descended with Studley manor in the Hungerford, Crewe, and Milnes families and to Raymond O'Neill, Lord O'Neill. In 1999 Lord O'Neill owned the land south of the London-Bristol road but not the other land. [\(fn. 116\)](#)

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As promised some details about Sister Vines.

Irene Prior was born in Calne and in 1947 married a local lad, Leslie Vines. She trained at Winford Orthopaedic Hospital near Bristol and she was the first nurse in Calne to be employed to help a doctor with his case load in his surgery, which was a new idea in the 1950s. When she first returned to Calne however she was drafted in to assist the resident nurse at St Mary's School to deal with a serious outbreak of influenza. She must have done a good job because her services were retained for another 16 years. Eventually she joined Dr. Rivett's surgery in Station Road. She had a warm, outgoing personality but she was also straight talking. She retired in 1982 but continued to work part-time in a local nursing home. She died in 1995. The help and reassurance offered by Sister Vines brought comfort to hundreds of patients over the years and saved the doctors much precious time. There are many people in Calne today who still remember Renee as she was known with great affection. A true local hero.

Gabriel and Vines may therefore be a connection to St Mary's.

The three names are women that I feel have been important, not only for the development of Calne and the surrounding area, but also the wellbeing and progression of the residents that lived and still live in our area.

1) Mrs Caroline Guthrie

In July 1849, Mrs Guthrie (1815 - 1866), along with her husband, created a school for the training of female servants, known as the Calne Training Institution. This was held in Wood Street in 1854 and developed into a school for infants and older children and became known as Guthrie juvenile school. It was an instant success, the Inspector in 1858 reported "Every exertion has been made by the managers to render this school really efficient, and all promises well".

This school outlived both Guthries, moved to William Street in 1964, and eventually taught five to seven-year olds, with 189 children on its roll in 1999.

Another of Mrs. Guthrie's projects was the establishment of a hospital for children, in Calne, which opened in 1858 at 61 The Pippin. To enable her to efficiently superintend the hospital,

she attended a hospital in London and over the course of a few months acquainted herself with its management. The hospital, a house belonging to the Marquis of Lansdowne, quickly increased from 4 beds to 12 with accommodation available for 4 more.

Unfortunately, the hospital seems to have been closed by 1865, but was still being mentioned positively in lectures in 1864. The school closure was likely due to Mr Guthrie's death and Mrs Guthrie moving to Bristol.

(Guthrie Juvenile School is a building that we are putting forward for the Local Heritage Asset listing).

## 2) Sarah Harris

Widow Sarah Harris moved from Devizes to Calne in 1770 with her ten-year-old son, John. She began trading as a pork butcher in Church Street, Calne, which was formerly known as Butcher Row.

John eventually took over the shop, but sadly died at a young age. It was his wife, Ann (nee Cotton), took over the shop and their children that then continued the business, opening and operating additional locations in Calne.

While there may not be much known about Sarah, this act led to a company that expended and thrived through many generations of the Harris family. The business was eventually known as C&T Harris, it was so successful that it effectively turned Calne into a mono-town, with generations of Calne and area families working, either in the factory, or the other company buildings around the town.

## 3) Miss Ellinor Gabriel

Miss Ellinor Gabriel (1821 (approx.) - 1900) lived at Horsebrook House on The Green and was one of the founders of St. Mary's School. Along with being their first Superintendent, for 6 and a half years, she also covered the deficit in the budget, reportedly paying out well over £300 from her own pocket.

Gabriel then bought 30, The Green, which was the first home of St. Mary's and in 1890 bought and gave the 2 houses adjoining the schoolhouse to provide for additional accommodation. To me, it seems clear that a debt of gratitude is owed by Calne to Miss Gabriel, who gave so much for others in our town. Without her financial assistance, it is likely that St. Mary's wouldn't have made it past its first decade and we would be without a school that brings pride to our town as a large employer that is consistently rating highly as being both an excellent independent school and a boarding school, bringing students from around the world.

Further to this:

In 1887 she gave £1000 to create the Frances Gabriel Scholarship, to be invested to provide 3 scholarships, which were awarded regularly for many years.

Also in 1887 Ellinor Gabriel gave the income from £110 to maintain the organ in the church.

She had also offer the Borough Council £1000 to build a convenient hall in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, but due to a lack of resources, this opportunity was not taken up at the time.