

THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

News & Views issue two June 2003

Where street and place names originated

Councillor David Stabler continues to feature the grid square names and main road names with historical connections. **Downhead Park** is named from the field name on the 1641 Parish map "Down Head Furlong". A Cotswold theme is use for street names i.e. Dalesford Court, Fairford Crescent, and Mickleton are all Cotswold villages.

The name **Linford**, mentioned as Linfordia in 994 A.D. and referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 as an area of land with two settlements - **Little Linford** and **Great Linford** - lying either side of the River Ouse. The name Linford probably derives from the name of the crossing point, a ford over the river where lime [Lind-en] trees grew.

Hazelwood. Thomas de Haselwood, was Rector of Great Linford 1317 – 1325. He spent most of these years in Newgate Prison, London, having been falsely accused by a rival of gaining the Rectory by false pretences. He was cleared and released by Edward 2nd shortly before his death.

Sandy Close. "Sandy" Napier, was Rector 1589 – 1634. He was the uncle of Sir Richard Napier who bought the Linford estate from John Thompson in 1640. Sandy was a notable character in the village who augmented his earnings as Rector from his interest in physics and astrology and alchemy.

Neath Hill. From place names on the 1641 Parish map Long Neath Hill and Neath Hill fallow field. Road names identify ancient crafts and trades associated with the City of London Livery Companies i.e. Coachmaker Court, Vintners Mews, Glazier Drive.