

CHAPEL LANE BY JOHN ALDRIDGE

At the junction of Chapel Lane and Watlington Road is **The Sun** public house, built in the 18th century of ragstone and brick with clay tile roof. In 1979 the exterior was cement rendered and coloured leaving brick quoins and window dressings. The lower portion on the North end was once a stable with hay loft over and used by William Belcher for a time up to 1897 as a blacksmith's shop when he was the landlord. This property was known as The Eight Bells for a period about 1870 until being re-named "The Sun" in 1887. The recorded landlords are: Joseph Painter 1822, Richard Archer from about 1830, William Harding 1852, Edmund Miles to 1868, Frederick Wadsworth to 1886, William Belcher to 1902, Harry Cook to 1910, Albert Barrett to 1923, Arthur Millan to 1930, James Stacey to 1950.

Continuing into Chapel Lane **Nos.29 to 35** are modern houses built on the site of another gravel pit used when the Parish was responsible for maintaining the roads within its boundaries. Next is a terrace built in 1901 and named '**Coronation Cottages**' to mark the coronation of King Edward VII. The next house was once a thatched cart shed with three stone walls and an open end to the road which my father bought from Mr A Gurney Snr in 1933 for the sum of £29.50. Dad raised the walls from five feet high to nine with timber framing and fixed new roof timbers covered with corrugated iron which that same year he had taken from "Cherrytrees" near the Home Sweet Home at Roke. (This house was then thatched as it is today, being the reverse operation). This building was used as a Builder's store until 1972 when I purchased the property from him, demolished it completely and built the present shop which I used as a warehouse until moving my House Furnishing business here from Henley on Thames in 1979.

Lydia, No 7 Chapel Lane and the two garages adjoining are C.18-19 built in brick and rag stone and partly stuccoed with clay tile roofs. All these premises were in the occupation of the Gurney family from the late 1800s which, together with the cart shed described before, served Mr Alfred for his horse-drawn haulier's business, Mr William for his motor lorry haulier and gravel supply business and Mr Alfred Gurney Junior's first motor repair and service business.

Nos 3 and 5 are shops but were once the Methodist Chapel, which I bought from the Trustees in 1948 for £125, plus solicitors' fees amounting to £6.45. My father used the premises as an apple store for a few years and I continued with general storage until 1963 when I converted them to the present shops. The two

gothic shaped cast iron windows from the road frontage are now fitted to the dormer in the barn at 'Brookside'.