

## **COLLEGE FARM BY JOHN ALDRIDGE**

Turning left out of Chapel Lane and continuing along the High Street, there are modern shops and houses. This whole site was part of **College Farm**, with its five-bay barn with oak and elm trusses, part ragstone walls and part timber framing, covered with weather-boarding and roofed with straw thatch. There were cowsheds, a milking parlour, pigsties, stables and stores.

These buildings dominated the overall view on the north side of the street, together with the very fine panelled brick and knapped flint seven-foot wall which continued to the Congregational Church, enclosing a very active and fascinating farmyard. It was truly a picture-postcard scene capable of encouraging any artist to paint a masterpiece. Chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, calves and piglets were free to graze and forage safely and enjoy life under the sun before reaching maturity. Hay and corn-ricks proudly graced their allotted positions ready for feeding to the animals and awaiting the annual arrival of the thrashing machine. The land to the north of this farmyard is now occupied by houses and bungalows with frontages to Chapel Lane, Crown Lane and Watlington Road. About 80 acres of land to the north of Littleworth Road, including the Sunnyside estate and the present playing field, went with this farm. The Orpwood Family were tenants from 1868 to 1895, then John Franklin and Son until the farm was demolished and sold for development.