

people by bear baiting which gave its name to Bear Garden Road leading from Bloxham Road to Broughton Road. There were then no houses on the left hand side but all those on the right were standing except the bungalow at the top of Crouch Street.

A gate at the bottom of Bear Garden Road on the left led to open fields with a pathway leading to Crouch Hill which was a very pleasant walk but now completely covered by roads of houses. The fields belonged to the farmer Mr Denchfield who lived in the farm on the Oxford Road next to a water tower opposite to the Elms, a large house then occupied by John Padbury Gillett and family.

Having reached the bottom of Bear Garden Road we are now at the join [f.16] of West Bar and Broughton Road. I can just remember when there were no houses except one cottage on the left leading towards the west. Berrymore Road was not built but there was a rough track leading to another cottage right at the top.

The fields were steep slopes each side with the path to the hill running along the bottom and a small entrance gate of each field in a sort of trough as a drinking place for cattle kept in the separate fields. A shooting range for practice by the volunteers was used on certain evenings. A target was always in place and a red flag hoisted to warn people that shooting was going on from a railed mound a certain distance across the fields. From Bath Road up the hill there were houses all the way, as now, to the lodge by the gate of Woodgreen, then occupied by Mrs Gillett, who lived to be a hundred, and her daughter. This row of houses was then called Constitution Hill. The few cottages further up the hill on the right were called the Brickyard cottages and on the opposite side there were only two cottages some distance apart. Bath Road has not altered very much except the row of houses which are new between the West End Tennis ground and the Park entrance. There was a picturesque but very poor collection of cottages enclosed in a court named Paradise Court. I remember seeing a picture of them by a local artist Charles Windsor. I think they were demolished before the ground was used for part of the park.

Leading from Bath Road on the north side was Park Road with a long line of houses on the right side; part of the way up a side street led down again into Bath Road, named Queen Street. At the top of Park Road a lane led to a group of houses, Golden Villas[sic] and a farm house. The lower end of Bath Road led into the Warwick Road. Following this road away from the town were houses and a few small shops.