



Where do the names of our houses come from?

How were the names chosen?

In September 2015, the school held a competition to name the new houses. Pupils were invited to suggest four appropriate names and justify their choices with supporting evidence.

There was a huge response to the competition, with entries ranging from popular authors, to historical figures, to natural landmarks - often with very clever links to Chesterton or the values of the school. It was a very difficult choice, but a judging panel decided on the best suggestion for the four names and those names will be used permanently for our new houses. The winning entry (**Buckle**, **Jersey**, **Penrose** and **Squire**) was from Henry Williams (Oak Class) and links to the names of local figures from Chesterton's history. Please see the following biographies of these interesting figures from the village's past. We are extremely grateful to local historian Jane Stead, who provided us with this fascinating information.

Buckle

Richard Buckle and Frances, his wife, are the first Buckles known to have lived in Chesterton. Richard is shown on the 1764 map as living in a cottage on the site of the Red Cow public house and owning 4 acres of land. On the map of 1764-68, it also shows a field named 'Buckle's Piece', which was used as farm land by the family. The present playing field takes up 4 acres of the land, and has been used for recreation since 1950.



The Cow, later renamed as The Red Cow, was first licensed in 1774 as an ale house. It became a public house later with many generations of the Buckle family working as publicans up to the 1920s.

Thomas Thornton Buckle, who was born at Chesterton, ran a butchers shop in the Causeway, Bicester. The name plate under the window of this shop, now a restaurant, is still there to this day.

The 1881 census record shows John Buckle, a widower aged 65 years, farmer of 30 acres, publican and census enumerator of Bicester district. This means that he would have been able to write clearly and would have taken all the details of villagers' names, ages, occupations and places of birth for the 1881 census.

Jersey



With a school starting in 1800 in the village, Lady Jersey (Sarah Sophia Child Villiers, Countess of Jersey) was paying for most of the pupils by 1819 - when there were 36 pupils on roll. In 1833, £12 a year was being paid for 41 pupils. In 1854, she had a new school built, which was leased to managers by successive Lord Jerseys, on the same site as the present school. The East window in St. Mary's Church is in memory of Lady Jersey, who died in 1867.

Lady Jersey was the wife of George Villiers (fifth Earl of Jersey). The Earl bought a large part of the village from the Duke Of Marlborough in 1808 for £51,000. He died in 1859. His son, also George (sixth Earl of Jersey) also died in 1859 only three weeks after his father. The seventh Earl of Jersey, Victor Child Villiers (20 March 1845 - 31 May 1915), gave the village reading room, which officially opened in October 1878, to keep the farm labourers out of the Red Cow Public House! This later became the Village Hall in the 1930s and is now the permanent home of Chesterton playgroup. During their ownership of Chesterton, they had many new cottages built, providing some with pig stys so they could keep a pig; a good source of food for a large family. The Jersey family residence was Middleton Park in Middleton Stoney.

Penrose



Francis Penrose of Chesterton Lodge (now Bruern Abbey School) was a surgeon from Bicester. He lived at Chesterton Lodge from approximately 1760-1782. He eventually bought the lodge and the estate and made great improvements to the old house and its pleasure grounds. He was born in 1718 and died in 1798 in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, where he is buried with his son James. He is remembered for being the first person to

discover and excavate the Roman town of Alchester in 1766, which comes under the parish of Chesterton. It is for this reason that the new development in the village is called Alchester Park.

Squire

Squire Hoare (Charles Twysden Hoare) was born on 10th November 1851 in Mitcham, Surrey. From 1871 to 1878, he played first class cricket as a batsman for Surrey County Cricket team. He captained the side in 1874. He also went on to play for Middlesex.

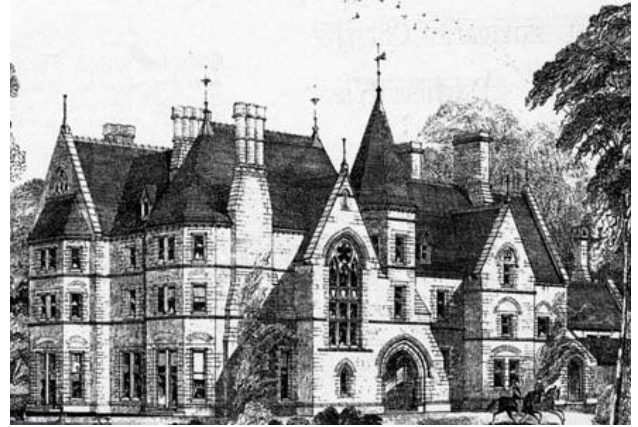
On 18th September 1883, he married the Hon. Blanche Frances Morgan. They had five children : Daisy, Violet, Rose, Myrtle and Charles Morgan.

Charles died in the First World War, which is shown on the memorial at St. Mary's Church in the village.

Educated at Eton and Oxford, he was a Justice of the Peace, a District Councillor and M.P. for Oxford (1894-1906). He was also High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1893.

The Squire was the owner of Bignell House and estate, including many farms, land in Chesterton village and most of Little Chesterton from 1884-1935. He was a well-known and respected farmer. By 1929, he was farming 1,460 acres, keeping a fine stud of shire horses and a large flock of Hampshire Down sheep. He employed a large numbers of villagers in the mansion, gardens and on the farm.

At one time, there were 23 gardeners at Bignell and it took a whole week to cut the grass! This was because it had to be done with a horse pulling the mower, wearing leather pads on its feet so it didn't mark the grass.



He also donated the land for the village allotments in the 1920s.

The Squire died on 22nd January 1935, aged 83, and was buried in Chesterton churchyard in the family grave, with two of his daughters. The Squire's death was bad news for the village, as many workers lost their jobs. The estate was sold in lots at an auction in Oxford later in 1935.