

**With grateful thanks to Ron & Joan Thomas for
the following information and reminiscences:**

Ron moved to Pittcourt in 1938 aged 8 & attended the village primary school. He met & married Joan & they lived for the first part of their married life in the row of terraced cottages which stood where Nos 13 & 15 Barrs Lane are now built. They had their two children, Howard & Janet, whilst living in the cottage.

Ron & Joan moved from Barrs Lane to their new house at Forthay in 1961 & the cottages were demolished shortly afterwards.

They have memories of life in the cottages, which was extremely hard compared to today's standards, & also of North Nibley in the 1950's & 60's.

There were four cottages in the row, in the first lived Mrs Morgan, we lived in the second, the Kingscots in the third & the Smiths in the fourth. Our front door opened straight onto Barrs Lane & there was a passage way between the row & Underwood Cottage which led to our back doors & gardens. The rent in 1952 was 6 shillings (30p) & eventually rose to 9 shillings (45p) in 1961.

We had to share an outside tap with our neighbours, we didn't have a sink but used an enamel bowl for washing and so on. There wasn't an inside toilet, we had to use one down the bottom of the garden in its own little shed behind our greenhouse. The cottage gardens were steep so there were steps immediately outside the back door under which was the coal house & the boiler. There was also a well for the families in the cottages to use.

The steps led to the garden where we grew vegetables & flowers. We also had an allotment on the land where Highlands Drive was built which we reached by using a path opposite our cottage next to Alder Cottage, number 24 (this cottage was 2 properties at that time). Our garden & allotment was very productive & we sold our excess produce which helped us to eventually buy the land where our present house now stands.

PTO

*We had a very good view towards Stancombe from our back door.
If we were going to catch the bus to Wotton we knew that when we
saw the bus at the top of Stancombe Pitch we would just have time
to walk to the bus stop at the Black Horse.*