

Then and Now: Mead Vale from pasture land to residential estate



Mead Vale is an area of Worle to the south of the New Bristol Road. In more innocent times, before the 1960s, the land was agricultural and used for pastureland, crops and market gardening. The photograph above right was taken in the early 20th century and will remind many of us of earlier days. It shows Vale Mill, which supplied the surrounding area with flour and bread until about 1910. It was a tower mill, worked by wind alone and had been owned and run by Thomas Quick and his family since at least 1870.

Most of the fields which abutted New Bristol Road, opposite the site of Mendip Green School, were pasture land in the ownership of Thomas Hardwick or John Tripp. These fields had unimaginative names, such as Five Acres, Six Acres and Nine Acres.

When the new residential roads and other facilities were built they were named after British birds and the Public House was given the name of the Nightjar. The land was, and is, low lying and prone to flooding. When building commenced, especially when Madam Rhyne was piped, local people expected flooding, but 50 years on 'Bird Land' is still happily afloat. It is well served with a primary school and a secondary school as well as the little group of shops.

Perhaps the most exciting new development is @Worle, which provides state of the art facilities and an excellent range of classes. Floodlit tennis and netball courts and the gymnasium attract many enthusiasts with an urge to keep fit.

Mead Vale Community Association shares its building in Redwing Drive with Mead Vale Church, and provides the people with somewhere to meet, contemplate and worship.

Yet another development has caused the congregation to move to the Night Jar public house.

