

Coolamber and Beechwood Estate Local History Remembered

By Bill Attley

The lands that both Coolamber and Beechwood lawns estates are built on, were formally owned by the Shields family. Of which there was two sisters and one brother (Reggie, Maud, Florry) who also owned the land where Maple Grove was built.(a small portion of these lands belonged to the Whelan family who were related to the Shields family and who also had the land at the other side of the N7, which runs down Tay Lane and ended opposite Taffee's.)

The land that the shopping centre is situated on belongs to a family called Jacobs. This land went all the way to where the Mullaly family still live and grew black currents and fruit of every sort for "Lambs Jams "which had a factory in Bluebell. Most of the locals got work during the holidays picking fruit. The house in between both estates is where Shields lived and where the apartments are now situated you see the back of the house from the road. The front is in the style of a large country house, with long steps leading up to the front which had a large veranda. This looked out on the large garden in the past and onto what they called a paddock, that included a tennis court.

Both sets of Shields were large farmers their land stretched from Beechwood and Coolamber to Swift brook paper mills, incidentally they were related to the family that City West Hotel is now situated on. Shields owned all the land that now is the N7 all the way down to the land of the Taffee family.

There was a gate lodge where the big trees at the roundabout are and there was a gate keepers house which Johnny Timmons family lived, there was a long avenue which brought you around to the front of the house. My father often spoke of the house parties that were held in what was then referred to a big house dining room.

In my time no such parties were held mostly they engaged in farming.

As none of the family married when they died the land, and the house was sold to the the builder developer John Mulholland.