

But there was light at the end of the tunnel and on New Year's Eve, 1947 a Conveyance between John Harrison Milner of Wolfen House, Chipping and Clitheroe Rural District Council was signed and saw the purchase of 2.512 acres of land, which had formed part of Church Raiké Farm, for the princely sum of £600. This was to become Kirklands Estate. The 32 brick-built houses - twenty semi-detached houses and three blocks of four houses - were to be well laid out with gardens front and back.

Renting was not new in Chipping, in fact most cottages were privately owned or in trust and occupied by tenants. For instance, Brabin's Trust held seven properties on Windy Street and Talbot Street, the Oddfellows had four cottages on Club Row, Bambers of the Pale owned five of the properties in Windy Street, Robinsons owned most dwellings on the right hand side of Talbot Street and under the lobby, whilst Boddington's Brewery had the left hand side, leading down the hill to the bridge. Berry's Chairworks owned the newly-built Kirk Cottages and the Grove. The Wilsons owned property on Sunnyside, Church Raiké and Old Hive, together with the Seeds and the Wells of Old Hive who occupied and rented several properties up the hill. Apart from an odd one having a parlour, these dwellings were mainly two up and two down with outside pettys. Tweedy's Foundry also had workers' cottages - called the Bottoms - attached to the factory at Saunder Raiké (see "Then and Now" page 29). It was from these houses that some of the first tenants of Kirklands were chosen. Archie Squires, Jimmy Rowe and Tommy Lawler and their families were amongst the first on the list to occupy the new properties.

What must it have been like? World War 2 was over and 32 new houses were to be built - it must have seemed as if the village was becoming a town. All the houses had three bedrooms with built-in cupboards, bathroom and a separate toilet. The main bedroom had its own fireplace and lazy lights hung from each ceiling. Downstairs the front room was 4yds by 4½yds with a tiled fireplace and a back boiler to heat your water and a big window that took curtains 66inches by 72inches to fill it. Leading off the hallway was a back room, complete with Aga-style oven and hotplate and a clothes rack above with a pulley system to air the washing. The kitchen had two fitted cupboards with drawers underneath, with shiny brass handles, a separate pantry and a Belfast sink with two taps - what a novelty! Red-tiled window bottoms throughout and asphalt floors covering all of the ground floor! There's more ... A passage leading down to the washhouse had doors leading off to an indoor coal house (with its own half door on the outside wall to accommodate fuel for the open fire), another inside toilet and the washhouse itself complete with free-standing washing boiler and Belfast