

KENTS CLOSE, 3:7:1989.

1789 Enclosures Map, . No 76 Red, John Kent, £3.
1837 Tithe Map, No 326. Lucy Clement Kent, owner.
Thomas Saunders, occupier. House and yard, 38p.

The building seems to have been built attached to Beehive Cottage in two or three stages. The brickwork shows a line between Beehive Cottage and Kents Close on the front and by the front door in the middle of the entrance room wall. The kitchen itself has been extended to twice its length at some time as there are piers on each side wall with a beam supported in the middle by large wooden column. The longitudinal central beam was extended into a later end wall.

In 1968 before moving in Mrs. Sugden had the thatch removed and a fire retaining wall built in the roof between Beehive and her cottage. While this was being done by Roy Blake he found the thatch of Beehive came down to eaves level in the roof between the two cottages.

A cellar exists only under the front room and the original well was under the floor just inside the front door, (where Robert Aitken used to sit.) The well at Beehive Cottage is the same distance from the High Street and is now covered in the floor of the new kitchen extension there. The builders repairing the present collapsing kitchen wall and roof, R.J. Smith of Whitchurch consider that the added end of the bedroom over the kitchen was originally a pigeon loft as Harry Munday told Mrs. Sugden. This extended roof was joined at the main beams half way up the roof by scarfe joints which had broken down and the similarly extended wall plates had broken and now bulged alarmingly to the south allowing the roof to dip.

The idea is to tie the wall plates together and support the roof with A-frames resting on the walls at first floor level. These frames will also be tied together lengthwise by 8 by 4 beams. The walls will be tied by tie-bars and S-plates which will close the A-frames. There will be some projection of the legs of the frames into the bedroom.

The presence of the well in the entrance hall suggests that the room was extended, covering the well and a small kitchen. The original cob wall of the kitchen from the south east door jamb was faced with brick by Harry Munday in the late twenties when the Aitkens bought the property then called Willianmarse.

THE DEEDS, lent by Mrs. Peggy Sugden.

23 Feb. 1914, a declaration by John Devenish Aldridge of Wood Green Essex that he was seized of the messuage lately in occupation of Jacob George Bendry (saddler), formerly H.J.Cook (veterinary surgeon) and prior thereto Robinsons (builder) from the year 1875, subject until 1884 to the life interest of his father John Petty Aldridge, and has received all rents and profits therefrom.

Indenture of sale between said J.D.A. and Anne Sinclair Woodin of the Rectory, Broughton, wife of the Rev. Alfred Woodin, property as described in the declaration for sixty pounds.

23 Jan 1928, conveyance between Stanley Hassall Woodin of Yarmouth Rectory, I.O.W. Clerk in Holy Orders and Cyril Henry Gribble of Basingstoke, whereas Anne Sinclair Woodin, late of Cosmos, Broughton died 6 March 1926; executor and vendors Leopold David Woodin and John H(?)orton Woodin for sum of £275 the dwelling house with garden and outbuildings at Broughton in successive occupation of H.J.Cook, Bendry, Robinson and Captain Hernandez and now unoccupied known as Willianmarse.

27 Feb 1928, conveyance between Cyril Henry Gribble of Basingstoke, estate agent to Robert Aitken of 11B Belsize Square, Middlesex, gentleman for £405 as previously described.

29 Aug 1968 conveyance between Charles Edwin Lovelock formerly of Minehead now of Leigh on Sea, retired station master and George Jonas personal representative, to Margaret Emily Millicent Sugden whereas Robert Aitken of Kents Close died 24 Sept 1965, Barbara Whitchurch Aitken died 13 Nov 1967 for sum, of £5000, the property known as Kents Close formerly as Willianmarse. Signed George Jonas 45 Casle St. Salisbury and Havelock, civil engineer. (Plan indistinct in copy.)

[Two Miss Aldridges' lived in Linden Cottage, one a dressmaker.][Petty ?related to Church Farm Petty.]