

The 1658 Indentures – A Precis

Indenture 1 dated 26/6/1658 between John Wildman Esq of Langley Place, Co Bucks and William Dickinson Esq of The Middle Temple, London, on the one part and John Ridley of Shrivenham, Berks, Gent, Richard Ridley of Doynton, Glos, Gent, and John Stratton the younger of Shrivenham, Gent, on the other part.

Whereas Henry Marten Esq of Bewcott, Berks, by his Indenture dated 18/11/1639 did sell unto Sir John Weller of Little Burdy in Dorset, all those the Lordship and Manor of Shrivenham Stallpitts and Beckett with their rights and appurtenances in Berks and all that Hundred of Shrivenham Stallpitts with all the lands and tenements. To have and to hold to Sir John Weller for the term of four score and nineteen years (99) years under the yearly rent of 5 shillings, (this is a mortgage or loan secured against the two manors) upon condition that if Henry Marten should pay to Sir John Weller the sum of £1040 upon the 18th November in the year 1642 in the Middle Temple Hall, London, when the Indenture will be void. And whereas Sir John Weller shortly after made his last Will and Testament, and died soon after, his son Robert Weller Esq proved the Will in due form of law and after died intestate. After whose decease, administration of the goods and chattels and personal estate of Sir John Weller's administration by Robert Weller was in due form of law committed to Grace the wife of William Churchill of Muston, Dorset, Gent, who was the daughter of Sir John. In an Indenture dated 29/5/1657, William Churchill, 'did by the appointment of John Wildman, sell on to William Dickenson, the two manors and lands etc.

(There is no mention here of the loan of £1040 that must have been paid back on time)

There is also some wording here that seems to suggest that what has then taken place is, or most probably is, legal and justified. Needs a lawyer's brain on it to accurately decipher.

It then continues, this Indenture is for goods and money paid to John Wildman, handed to him by John Ridley, then the payment of five shillings, (meaning that it's a token gesture), to sell, All that messuage in Shrivenham now in the tenure of John Gosling and 3½ acres of pasture in the tenure of John Stratton the elder, and the 18½ acres lying in a certain place

called Slade Hill and between Slade Hill and a way called Abbots Way, near a place called, The Piece, all Stables and Orchards. This is all sold to Richard Ridley and John Stratton the younger.

At the end of the document it states that, William Dickenson appoints his loving friends John Blagrave, Gent, and Thomas Stratton, Gent, to be his lawful attorneys jointly.

Indenture 2 dated 20/4/1658 between John Wildman Esq of Idstone, Berks, on the one part, and John Ridley of Shrivenham, Gent, Nicholas Perry of Great Martone, Berks, Gent, and Thomas Perry of the same place, Gent.

Whereas Sir William Essex, late of Bewcott alias Beckett, Berks, Baronet, and William Essex Esq, the son and heir apparent of Sir William and by an Indenture or lease dated 22/12/1620, did devise, grant and farm let to William Smithier of London, Gent, and John Lee, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, All that Manor of Shrinham alias Shrivenham, Stallpits in Berks, and all that Manor and Capital messuage of Beckett. And all that the Hundred of Shrivenham Stallpits and all messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, tythes etc ...

It then refers to another Indenture dated 5/3/[1629], whereby William Smithier and John Lee sold to Roger Pemberton Esq of St. Albans, Co Herts, and Peter Goodwin, Citizen and Maltster of London. And whereas Roger Pemberton is [since] deceased, the whole estate vested in Peter Goodwyn by right ofship. And whereas Peter Goodwyn by an Indenture dated 26/2/1633 did sell to James Gresham and William Jerland, Gent, the Manor, Capital messuage. An whereas William Jerland is since deceased, James Gresham of St Henfield in Co Essex, Gent, by an Indenture dated 5/4/1656 did sell to Thomas Hanson of the City of Sarum, Wilts, the Manor and Capital messuage, Hundred etc. And whereas Thomas Hanson and James Gresham by an Indenture dated 11/5/1656 did sell to John Wildman all the Capital Messuage etc.

Now this Indenture witnesseth that John Wildman for and in consideration of the sum of £200 paid to him in hand by John Ridley the receipt whereof the said John Wildman doth by these presents acknowledge. And for other good causes and considerations, John Wildman hath by the [rot..] and appointment of John Ridley, granted and sold to Nicholas Perry and Thomas Perry, all those parcels of the recited Manor and Premises, all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in Shrivenham on the West side of the Churchyard there adjoining unto the Churchyard and also all that close of Meadow Ground adjoining to the messuage or tenement containing by estimation 3½ acres and also all that pasture ground newly enclosed containing by estimation 3½ acres now in the tenure of John Stratton and all other those 18 acres 8½ of arable lands lying and being in a certain place called Slade Hill and between Slade Hill and a certain way called Fisher's Way and in a certain place called, The Piece, near adjoining to the meadow ground above mentioned and also the common pastures, tithes, etc .

Note by NBM. *This is the Manor House. It's the first time I've ever seen an accurate description of a location of a property. I've also never come across Nicholas & Thomas Perry before.*

Indenture 3 dated 5/5/1658 between John Wildman of Idston Esq, Sir John Billingsley of St Nicholas Lane, Canon St, London, Vyntner, William Layton of the City of Westminster, Middx, Gent and Thomas Willward of the same City, Esq, on the one part, and John Ridley of Shrivenham, Berks, on the other part. John Wildman for the sum of £200 from John Ridley, sells to him all that messuage and tenement in Shrivenham now in the tenure and occupation of John Gosling and also the meadow adjoining and the barns and stables and buildings adjoining. John Wildman and the others listed above, plus one John Glover

Then there is reams of legal jargon without giving any info at all, then at the very end that out it in the hands of their loving friends, John Blagrove and Thomas Stratton, their true and lawful attorneys, jointly

Indenture 4 dated 1/5/1658 between John Wildman of Idston Esq, Sir John Billingsley of St Nicholas Lane, Canon St, London, Vyntner, William Layton of the City of Westminster, Middx, Gent and Thomas Willward of the same City, Esq, on the one part, and John Ridley of Shrivenham, Berks, on the other part. That John Wildman for the sum of £200 paid to him by John Ridley, for in consideration of parts of performance of the trust in them reposed by John Wildman and at the instance and request of John Wildman and in consideration also the sum of 5 shillings (token gesture again) to them in hand paid by John Ridley, the receipt of which said several sums of money the said (people above) do by these presents severally confess and acknowledge and for diverse other good causes and consideration them the said John Wildman and (people above) in this behalf officially moving have demised, bargained, sold and to farme let and by those presents do demise, grant, bargain, sell and to farme let unto John Ridley all that pasture ground newly inclosed containing by estimation 3½ acres of arable land be the same more or less lying being in a certain place called Slade Hill and between the Slade Hill and a certain way called Fisher's Way and in a certain place called the Piece acre adjoining to the messuage now in the tenure of John Gosling the Elder.

More legal jargon then it states, If the said John Ridley, Thomas Ridley and Charles Ridley, brothers of the said John or any or either of them shall happen so long to his yielding and paying therefore yearly during the said term one pepper corn in and upon the Feast of St Michael the Archangell only if it be demanded (token gesture payment again)

Indenture 5 dated 20/5/1658 between John Wildman of Idston Esq, Sir John Billingsley of St Nicholas Lane, Canon St, London, Vyntner, William Layton of the City of Westminster, Middx, Gent and Thomas Willward of the same City, Esq on the one part and John Ridley of Shrivenham, Gent, John Wickson of Pucklechurch, Glos, Gent and William Stratton Of Shrivenham, Gent, of the other part. John Wildman for a certain sum of money (amount not stated, but next line there is 5 shillings, so it's a token gesture), the receipt of which they acknowledge, and sell all that pasture ground newly inclosed containing 3½ acres now in the tenure of John Stratton and 18½ acres in a certain place called Slade Hill and

between Slade Hill and a certain way called Fisher's Way and the Piece near adjoining to the messuage now in the tenure of John Gosling the elder.