

The 17th century properties known as Jentilles and Wynings in Shrivenham

The document bundle RBA. D/EEL/T16

This bundle of documents has a description attached that the contents concern the Jenner family and various properties in Moredon, Wilts and Watchfield, Berks. But a close examination of them has revealed that they are mainly about one area of Shrivenham in particular and two properties called Jentilles and Wynings. However, in a separate document not of this bundle, in the Will of Thomas Jenner the elder, (PROB 11/212) written in January 1649, he gave to his son William his *'Two messuages or tenements known as Jentilles and Wynings and two Yardlands and a half belonging'* (about 25 acres of land). The Will also included that he gave to his son Richard a Dwelling House, at the time leased to William Warren, and it could become Richard's when the lease expired. This information from the Will enabled more sense to be made of the RBA bundle.

The earliest Indenture in the bundle is dated to January 1657 and is between William Jenner of Watchfield, Yeoman, (farmer) and John Charles of Shrivenham, Cordwainer (maker of shoes). The property is described as, *'All that cottage or tenement wherein one Thomas Woodley then dwelt with the Garden and Barkside belonging and one other parcel of ground being at the end of the garden adjoining to the Barkside then of William Pound, Clerk.'* William Pound was the Vicar of Shrivenham from 1597 to 1648, a long tenure. He's described as a Clerk in the document and still today it means Clergyman, a person in Holy orders. The reference to him living in this cottage is interesting in that it's not at the same location as where the Vicarage is located today.

One of the biggest problems that blights historians is the exact location of properties being discussed and described in contemporary documents. At the time it was written it was obvious to readers where the property was located but several hundred years later, it is not clear. In the second half of the 17th century, everyone in Shrivenham would have known exactly where the property called Jentilles and Wynings stood.

The picture below shows the area today. However, try now to imagine it completely different as we reveal what the rest of the documents will tell us.



Written within the text of the numerous Indentures are references to earlier transactions, often called a Schedule. The earliest reference is 1625, where many names are mentioned, prominent people such as Stratton, Ridley and Pleydell. Their purpose was Lawyer, Money Lender, Neighbour and others. The common family name all through however, is Jenner and sometimes Jenner alias Joyner. From the 1620s until at least the 1740s, Jentilles and Wynings were owned by the Jenners.

The Indenture dated 25th March 1665 (Lady Day) between Richard Jenner of Watchfield, and William Warren of Shrivenham provided a lot of information. William held the property on a 22 year lease at £20 per annum, as well as agreeing to provide Richard with a Gallon of Metheglin (a popular 17th century herbal cure-all) The description is, *'All that Dwelling House situated in Shrivenham in which William Warren doth now inhabit and dwell with the house adjoining to the west end of the Dwelling House together with all and singular houses edifices buildings, Barns, Stables Orchard, Garden, Pig Sty and Barkside to the Dwelling House adjoining and belonging.'* It's a considerable property. He further agrees

to maintain it and a list of items is included but of particular interest is, *'two shop windows and the double doors of the shop.'* William Warren was a Mercer, so it seems highly likely that he operated a dry goods store, textiles and fabrics. It's also likely the shop front was close to the main street that an Indenture of 1675 described as being on the south of the property. It's at this period that John Lewis of Chippenham, Wilts, a Butcher enters the scene. And this is likely the start of Lewis' the Butchers in Shrivenham, with George running a Butcher's shop on the end of what is now the Prince of Wales Pub (See SHS No: N261); Francis Lewis, in 1727 selling the pub over the road called the Barrington Arms today, but then called the White Hart (See SHS No: N805); and 20 of them interred in St Andrew's graveyard (Apply to SHS Digital Vault for access).

There were major changes taking place in 1678. The owner had changed to Thomas Jenner of Maggot Mill, Highworth, Yeoman (See SHS No: N851). For the sum of £20 paid by William Warren to Thomas Jenner, *'All that parcel of ground containing half an acre on part whereof a Dwelling House hath formerly stood and hath been the chief messuage of Thomas Jenner in Shrivenham commonly called or known by the name of Jentylls and whereon a new Dwelling House is now erecting, the Barkside Barns and ground of Mrs Anne Pleydell on the northeast part, the common street of Shrivenham on the south part and the house and ground now in the occupation of John Lewis on the west part which parcel of ground now in the occupation of Thomas Jenner was in the occupation of Richard Allyn.'* This description is particularly useful for location. To the north-east lay the Rectory Manor House of the Pleydells, (Now Shrivenham House) to the south the Common Street (Shrivenham High St). The Indenture goes on to explain in detail how the new house was to be built and it's clear that it is likely timber-framed and would have been demolished when the new buildings were erected in 1825 by John Streat (See SHS N1257).

More information came in 1682 with the Indenture dated 25th March, between Richard Jenner of Watchfield, Gent, on the one part, and John Lewis the elder of Shrivenham, Butcher on the second part. For £16 Richard Jenner leased to John Lewis, *'All that close of pasture or arable ground commonly called Jentilles or Wynnings or by whatever other name the same is called or known, laying next to the Orchard of John Charles on the West and Robert Willis on the East and containing one Yard or Rood of ground adjoining to the Vicarage Barton*

laying and being in Shrivenham.' This description gives further interesting information and needs careful analysis. On the west is the Orchard of John Charles senior and on the east the Orchard of Robert Willis, and the piece of ground that lies ahead is one rood in measurement (about one quarter of an acre). The close of ground belonging to the properties called Jentilles or Wynings – or whatever it is called now (use of the names was waning), lay adjoining the ground of the Vicarage. Therefore it's likely that the Vicarage was then part of the Rectory Manor House or there was a smaller house stood somewhere nearby. Below is a map of the area being examined circa 1830, with the church at the top and Shrivenham House on the right. It will help us to see how it developed from 200 years earlier.



The discovery of John Charles living at this location at this time is matched by another discovery made recently within the documents of Langton family who were the Lay Rectors for the Manor of Stainswick, Shrivenham. In a document concerning an official examination that was carried out by a Justice of the Peace, it was to be held on the 19th October 1695 at the house of John Charles being the Sign of the Swan in Shrivenham.

(RBA. D/EPB/L1). This is a Public House hitherto unknown to Shrivenham history. Consideration was being given that maybe it was the name previous to the White Hart that became today's Barrington Arms. However, another examination was held earlier in 1685 at the House of Richard Dod being at the sign of the White Hart so both pubs must have been separate. John Charles senior died in July 1687, so it may have been his son, also called John, who was running the Swan, which was quite likely to have been the timber-framed building that once stood there on Shrivenham High Street. (Below – an AI interpretation of what it may have looked like circa 1695).



The Will of Thomas Jenner of 1649 described that the two properties called Jentilles and Wynings had two and a half Yardlands attached to them. This was a common feature of property holdings at the time, and whilst the measurement of a Yardland varied greatly across the country, in Shrivenham it averaged to be approximately 10 acres. Those Yardlands were not contiguous but situated in the open fields to the north of the church. Another Indenture in the RBA bundle was dated July 1718 and concerned the sale of what was likely to be one of those Yardlands. For £123, Edward

Jenner of Moredon, Yeoman, sold to Richard Eyloe, Gent, (owner of Elm Tree House) '*All that pasture ground situate lying in Shrivenham in a certain place there called Abbotts Hill containing 8a 1r 16p*).' (Probably the field called The Three Elms No 76 on 1844 Tithe Map – See SHS No: N346).

The final Indenture and the latest of the RBA bundle is dated March 1738. It's interesting in that it's the rental of a property by Edward Jenner of Moredon, who is then described as a *Gentleman* – uprated from Yeoman, to Edward Hunt the younger of Shrivenham. It makes no mention of the name of the property but it's reasonable to assume it was either Jentilles or Wynings. For £12 per annum, '*All that messuage or tenement situate in Shrivenham, late in the tenure or occupation of Mary Gey, widow*.' It also had Stables, Outhouses and an Orchard attached. This makes sense of Edward Hunt's involvement in that particular area of Shrivenham High Street when he purchased later that century in 1770, the shop known as a '*Penthouse*' used by George Lewis to sell meat. (See SHS No: N261 – History of the Prince of Wales pub).