

## JOURNEY'S END, ROKEMARSH by Sherwyn Smith

For most of this century, Journey's End belonged with Brook Farm, Benson. In August 1919, the farm, which appears to have been in the Parsons and Stevens families since before 1820, was sold by auction.

The particulars say

*".... also at Roke Marsh, A Pair of Semi--detached Brick & Flint Cottages, with Thatched Roofs, Lean-to Boarded Outbuildings and Gardens in Front..... In the occupation of J. and C. Prior".*

Each cottage had two rooms and a scullery, but no name. The farm became a County Council smallholding, the cottages being knocked into one and christened Journey's End, shingles replaced thatch; mains drainage was installed but not connected.

By the 1970s, the land was let to David Belcher of Hale Farm, Benson, and the cottage to Ted Webb who ran Benson football. Mr Webb senior lived next door in an ancient, tumbledown cottage, on the site of Meadow View.

In 1979, Journey's End, now derelict, was auctioned again, advertised as *"Run Down Cottage, World's End Lane"*. Excellent restoration work, by Bill Pearman of Wellings Cottage, Rokemarsh, and Vic Green from Berrick, was completed in October 1980. Since 1996 a yew hedge maze has been growing in the garden (but outside the parish, on the Benson side of the boundary).

