

## BIRCHINGTON'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Between the two World Wars, a Community Kitchen operated from the right hand side of these premises, as can be seen in a local photograph below. The picture is dated 1925. It is only listed in Kelly's Directory for 1925-26, but it may have lasted longer but simply not have been registered. This was a voluntary venture.



The service was based in the front right hand room of The White House (as it was then known). A kitchen sink and tap were installed on the rear wall, together with a gas stove.

The service was provided for the very poorest of the villagers at a time, when most men were still agricultural workers, receiving very low wages. The Parish Councilors and gentry, along with quite a few of the middle wage earners, decided they must do something to help their poorest neighbours. It is not unlike the present system of Food Banks which we are running here in Thanet. All the Churches are involved but many other organizations are also helping with this.

The room in Mulberry House where the Kitchen was based was recently listed as 'The Library' in one set of plans.