

BIRCHINGTON INSTITUTE SOLD

Thanet Advertiser & Echo 13 Dec 1938

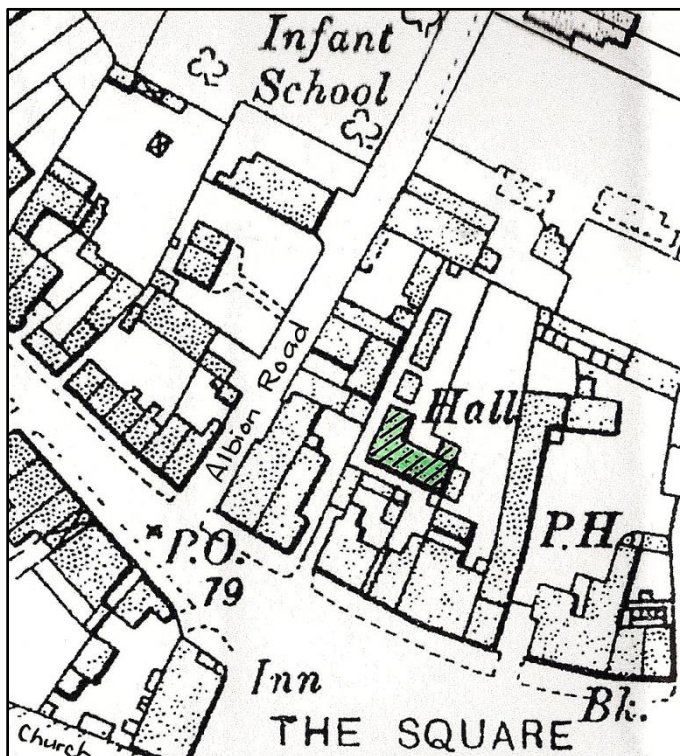
“**Institute Sold** – Birchington Institute, at one time the meeting place of the old Parish Council, was purchased by a private individual for £900 at a public auction last week.”

N.B.

The Institute was used as the village’s first ‘Village Centre in 1878, when the newly installed Vicar, Rev John Price Alcock, gathered together a group of local people to guide the project through. The Vicar realised that there was nowhere in the village where a large meeting of a non-religious nature could take place.

Access to the Institute was via a door on the north side of the Square, which was next door to the house used by the Institute’s caretaker.

Once it was up and running, it provided a venue for every kind of village community activity, including entertainment, education and even a quiet reading room where local papers could be perused and a small lending library was begun. The first Birchington Infant School began life here, but that quickly moved across the road to the old Primitive Methodist Chapel.



1898 Map of the north side of the Square, showing the Institute and the Infant school site after it was moved into the Chapel.