



3. The site of John Blanchflower's Tudor house 'Sendreds'. Today one pair of cottages fronts the Green. The others were demolished before World War II.  
(Photo: author)

### Who were the people who used the Green?

The first census taken in 1841 is the earliest hint we have of the women and children living in the cottages. A 35-year-old James Stebbing, with wife, seven children aged between 14 and 8 months, and two 15-year-old servants, farmed Green Farm. The Stebbings were to live there for more than a century and were succeeded by the Woltons. There were nine inhabited cottages and twenty children on the Green itself. The agricultural workers were employees but not itinerant. For the most part they lived there long enough to raise families, tending to marry women born in Capel or neighbouring parishes. Apart from a shepherd and a 'jobber' all the men laboured on the land, including Francis Cook, aged 60, living in the cottage below the wood where twenty four years earlier he described himself as a merchant.<sup>5</sup> The cottage and its housekeeper Mary Cook featured as a smuggler's hideaway in a famous piece of semi-fiction.<sup>6</sup> Francis was still there twenty years later and Ann now aged 81 is described as 'pauper'. Was she disguised as Mary in *Margaret Catchpole*?

In 1851 ten cottages are recorded and fifteen children, only one of whom attended school. The Wards have four children; the Webbs only one; the Snowdens are father and son, both shepherds, with three siblings; the older Folchers have two aged lodgers, the younger have four young children; the Collings a baby, while Widow Sheldrake, the Smiths and Cranes have no children. The larger part of Green Farm is occupied by James Stebbing and wife with three younger children; his adult son and two labourers are digging coprolites, taking advantage of the short-lived boom. The other part of the farm is occupied by Widow Bett, her five children, baby grandson and a lodger. The adult son and two daughters work her 12 acres.