

A Lasting Treasure

In the autumn edition of the Gander I wrote about the Village meeting that was held at the beginning of the First World War. I commented upon the misapprehension that the war would soon be over and the lack of understanding of what would be involved.

The war lasted for four years and in that time the world changed and the village changed with it. The war ended on Tuesday the eleventh day of November in 1918 and just nine weeks and one day later The Parish Council called another Parish Meeting. I can do no better than to quote the minutes of that meeting as they are written in the minute book.

War Memorial

At a public meeting, held in the Day School on Tuesday the 14th day of January 1918 convened by the Parish Council, Coun Alfred Asher in the chair it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the chairman, Sec by Coun Hornsby "That a Parish Hall be erected as a memorial to the Sailors and Soldiers of this Parish who have taken part in the Great War".

It was further resolved that the building be erected by voluntary contributions and that a committee be elected to carry out the proposal. The following were elected members of the committee: Mr T Raby Mr P M Hornsby Rev S A Andrew Mr & Mrs M Holmes Mr J Robinson Mr W T Brewer Mr H Porter Rev C H Marsh Mr H West Mr J Northern Mr E Buckley Mr W Shearwood Mr Jas Taylor Mr G Allison Mr A Asher Mr H Tyson Mr T E Elliott Mr J Broughton Mr W J Smith Mr T Plumtree Mr G C Man Miss Hardy Mr L Williamson Mrs Buckley Mrs H West Mrs W Shearwood Mrs E Naylor Mrs Buntton Miss Plumtree Mrs W Lamming Mr Jas Osgerby Mr Thos Dunn Mr T Lamming jnr Mrs G Vickers Mrs J Northern Mr L P Houlton.

By Consent of the Vicar it was arranged that the first meeting of the committee be held in the Vicar's

Room on Tuesday 21st January 1919.

In the long years of the war the people of this country had come to understand the debt which was owed to the young people who had gone to fight. The sad news of death and injury continued even after the end, and so it was that just those few short weeks after the end of the war the village had decided to build a hall. Not simply as a memorial for the dead but in the words of the minutes to the Sailors and Soldiers of this parish who have taken part in the Great War.

We can see other changes the committee was made up of a wide variety of people, not just men as would probably have been the case before the war but now women were involved. Although it would be some years before women were recognised politically the door was opened for them to join the committee and become part of this enterprise.

When the committee met the following week they elected Mr Tom Raby as chairman Coun A Asher as Vice Chairman and Mr W T Brewer and Mr J Northern as Joint Secretaries. Mr W A Witty manager of the London and Joint Stock Bank at Barton became the treasurer. And they immediately elected all members wives and twenty other people to join the committee. More than seventy five people eventually became committee members. They immediately began to collect and organise fund raising events and by the end of the first year they had raised more than £600.

During that first year they purchased forty whist tables. Four people sit at each table to play whist so they were expecting nearly one hundred and sixty people to take part in whist drives. They also purchased crockery and a piano and all three items were available for hire by other organisations at a fixed rate.

Whilst the fund began to mount up

quite quickly the search for a suitable site upon which to build was a very slow and difficult business. Even when a suitable site had been found there were objectors. Suffice it to say that Not In My Back Yard is not a recent concept.

There were also difficulties which we living in Goxhill today cannot easily imagine. There was no piped water supply at that time so a Well was bored and a pump was fitted. Mr Batson was paid £8. Of course there was no gas or electricity in the village so heating was by radiators and a coal fired boiler. Lighting was more difficult Oil lamps were used. 4 hanging bronze mantle lamps 4 Gilt bracket lamps central. 60c.p. and three duplex lamps for cloak-rooms and kitchen were purchased. A second hand Billiard table was found to be available in Hessle and was bought for £75 Carriage paid and fixed. That also required lighting and a second hand Acetylene outfit was obtained.

The trustees and the committee had resolved to build a large hall with Committee room, Billiard room, Kitchen, and Toilets. They carried out this resolution with the support and assistance of the people of the village and other benefactors and in March 1925 it was opened. Ninety years ago the residents of Goxhill resolved to build a lasting memorial and since that time the Memorial Hall has provided facilities for entertainment and a place of remembrance for all of the members of the armed forces from this village. The Memorial Hall committee are planning a special function to commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of that great work. All of us who live in the village whether of old Goxhill families or recent arrival must remember with gratitude the people who have worked to build and support the Memorial Hall during the past Ninety years.

Maurice Brawn

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