

Welcome Home & War Memorial 1945/46



A public meeting took place in the Village Hall on Tuesday last week. Much interest was taken as it was known that the executors of the late Miss J M Seymour had given to the parish the existing Village Hall and the land adjoining it, also the War Memorial Garden. It was agreed that the trusteeship of the Village Hall be vested in the Parish Council, under deed to be approved by the National Council of Social Services, and that a management Committee be elected, consisting of one representative from each of the public bodies in the parish, the Chairman of the Parish Council, and four members of the public.

It was stated that so far, £185 had been raised for the Welcome Home Fund and £92 for the Memorial Fund; and that the family of the late Mr P Houghton Brown had given £900. Improvements to the hall were discussed and the following details were approved: 1, improved heating, lighting and cooking arrangements; 2, the purchase of additional furniture; 3, improved cloak room accommodation; 4, the provision of an additional room above the existing billiard room which could be used as a Committee or reading or library room; 5, the provision of a stage with suitable dressing-rooms.

The meeting approved that the names of those who gave their lives in this war be inscribed on the Memorial, and the garden be properly laid out with a shelter. The trusteeship and management is to be handed over to the Parish Council.

It was agreed not to purchase the cottage adjoining the hall and that the Committee should consider the option on the purchase of land north of it. The meeting decided against steps being taken to acquire Gaston as a playing field. It was agreed to hold a party about Christmas time for returned Service men and women and Merchant Navy. The Welcome Home Fund is to be closed on 31st March. Every service member is to be presented with a wallet containing cash.

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The returned service men and women were officially welcomed home at a parish gathering in the village hall on Friday. The hall, which was tastefully decorated by Miss Sheard and Miss Trevor, was crowded.

Mr R J Jesse (chairman of the Welcome Home Committee) presided and gave the ex-servicemen and women a warm welcome from the parishioners. Sixty-five men and women were given a token of thanks, consisting of a cheque, the money for which had been publicly subscribed, together with a card expressing the parishioners' thanks and appreciation.

Sir Geoffrey Fison, Bart., handed the gifts to the men and Mrs R Shand to the women. Both Sir Geoffrey Fison and Mrs Shand expressed the congratulations and thanks of the parishioners to all those who served. The relatives of those who made the great sacrifice received cheques by post before Friday's ceremony. Mr P Peard, as a returned ex-serviceman thanked all who had arranged the gifts. Loud cheers and the singing of "For they are jolly good fellows" concluded the presentation ceremony.

The evening was given over to entertainment and dancing and refreshments were provided free for all. Songs were sung by Mr Gerald Forward, Mr Rawlings, Mr F Snook and Mr P Peard; music was played by Mr A G Bendall and Mrs B Chubb; Mr F W Barnes was M.C.

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