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WRESSLE VILLAGE HALL

formerly the VILLAGE INSTITUTE

Started life as the Village Institute the first meeting was held on the 19.09.27 in the schoolroom where it was decided that money would be raised to buy a wooden hut. A committee was formed under the Chairman Rev. A. Speak, Mrs. Baker, Miss A. Hewison, Mr. J. McGough Secretary, Messrs L. Potter and L. Kirkman.

The first money raising venture took place in the school room on the 23.10.27 in the form of a Whist Drive admission 1/-d. Subsequent meetings brought more money from local farmers, until they had sufficient funds to buy an ex Army Hut, which was situated at Newsholme, the removal was organised by Mr. McGough the estate manager, who used the estate workers, to place the hut on the site at Mill Farm. The Hut was purchased from Mr. Fawcett of Gribthorpe on the 22.11.27 and was insured for £200.00.

Inventory of equipment bought for the Institute.

Coke fired slow combustion stove,
3 Lamps, Fire Shovel, Small Shovel,
2 Scrubbing brushes, 2 Sweeping brushes,
Hand brush, Wash leather, Blacklead,
2 Water Buckets, Blacklead brushes,
1 Large tin Kettle, Small mop,
Galvanised Wash Tub, Tin Bath, Dusters,
Dishcloths, Soap, Sanitary Toilet Paper, Sanitary Bucket.

There was to be a different Chairman elected each meeting, a Billiard Table. 8ft / 4ft 4" was purchased from E.J. Riley Ltd., for the sum of £25. 00. In February 1928 the committee came to a disagreement with the Chairman Reverend Speak, because they insisted on holding dances during Lent, Reverend Speak however was outvoted and the dances continued. The dances were held initially at North Duffield or Bubwith. The opening dance was on the 13.12.28 and the admission was 6d. A bus from Selby would usually bring a considerable number of people to the 6d Dances. The institute members paid a sum of 5/-d per year to use the hut, for darts, billiards, reading, Library. Books were provided by the East Riding Council. No games or use of the institute was allowed on a Sunday.

The 10th Anniversary of the opening of the institute a Fancy Dress Carnival Dance was held from 10p.m. to 2.a.m.on December 17th 1937 Admission 1/6d refreshments extra.

During the War Years money raising went into the various Warship Funds etc. the dances continued.

A radio-gram was purchased in 1947 with the cash that was left over from the War, the unveiling of the radio was performed by Sir Harold & Lady Wilberforce Bell and a memorial tablet was commissioned for the occasion.

In 1953 a Coronation Carnival Dance and Tea Party was held, and 10dozen Mugs were purchased at a cost of £10.00. These mugs were given to the children in the village. As people left the village it became increasingly difficult to raise money, but there was a dedicated band who kept things going.

Chairman H.Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. G. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Simpson.
Mr. & Mrs. G. Blanshard,Mr. Darley, Mr. Young, Mrs. Andrew,
Mrs. Jarrold, Mr. & Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. R. Falkingham,Mr. G. Newby,
Mr. W. Scaling, Mr. N. Walker, Mr. R. Walker, Mr. H. Blacker
Mr. & Mrs. G. Mosey and Secretary Miss Marion Mosey.

A Youth Club was formed with H.McDonald, M.Simpson Carol Blacker, Valerie Hutton, Valerie Blanshard, M. Walker W.McDonald, the club was opened initially for 1 night a week on a Monday, when it became popular this was increased to 2 nights a week, always with a committee member present.

Over the years people left the village and so the enthusiasm for money raising became more difficult. Miss Marion Mosey being the Secretary and principal worker. Her main income came from Whist Drives and Beetle Drives, with which she managed to keep the old hut viable, Margaret Hunt and Margaret Wright would ferry the people from Howden and surrounding villages to take part.

The crunch came in 1973 after the Childrens Christmas Party, a certain few children wished to use the toilet, and when they saw what it was like they would not use it. Several mothers decided that something had to be done, so at the next Annual General Meeting it was proposed that new toilets were a necessity and a Planning application was to be submitted to the E.R.C.C.

January 1973 a meeting was called and with the Chairman Rev. R. Graham and V/Chairman M. Simpson a committee of Mr. G. Walker, Mr. R. Walker, Mr. Hunt, Mr. H. Blacker, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Leak, and Secretary Miss Mosey, there was a large attendance from the village, and it was proposed that Mrs. Margaret Hunt should be the Treasurer, and Jean Skowronek the Secretary, a further meeting was arranged for the 8th February 1973, Mr. P. Wise Architect from Foggathorpe was invited to attend the meeting and advise on various ways of applying for Grants. We as a committee had to raise at least 25% of the total cost of any new building, and we were advised to go for a new building rather than just new toilets.

The Secretary was instructed to find out if there were any title deeds relating to the land and the wooden hut. A money raising committee was formed with Mrs. Shirley Hart as chairman, to organise functions her committee was Mrs. S. Leak, Mrs. M. Wright, Mrs. I. Carey, Mr. H. Blacker, and they were to be supported by the full committee.

Mr. M. Simpson paid tribute to the work of Miss Mosey and it was agreed that a presentation in the form of a Tea-Service, be given at a Cheese and Wine evening the date to be arranged. the Chr/man then gave a vote of thanks to Mr. P. Wise for attending the meeting and giving valuable advice.

According to records there were no Title Deeds for the village hall, so after consulting Mr. J. Green Solicitor, it was agreed that we should obtain Possessionary Title of the land, the site which Lord Leconfield had given was on Mill Farm, but he did not record this.

The planning authorities were prepared to accept this document, so the Secretary made the arrangements for the oldest residents to swear that the Title to the land was correct, the signatories were, Mr. G. Walker, Mr. H. Blacker, Mrs. A. Simpson and Miss M. Mosey

Mrs. Hart meanwhile was busy organising and arranging Beetle Drives Whist Drives, Jumble Sales, Dances, Wine & Cheese Evenings, so that by the end of May 1973 we had raised £375.00.

The fund raising carried on relentlessly, adding Barbecues, Fashion Shows and the Turkey Supper which all made large amounts of money.

The Barbecues were held at Castle Farm by kind permission of Mr. G. Falkingham, and the Fashion Shows from 1993 onwards were held at Loftsome Bridge, by permission of A. Axup and G. Oldridge

Mr. C. Leak told the committee that his mother would be pleased to give the village hall a yard of land running down the side adjacent to her bungalow this was greatly appreciated and a letter of thanks was given.

By 1976/1977 we had our target of £4000.00 we were then able to get on with the task of arranging to get the old Hut off the site, we were able to sell the Hut for £50.00, although some members thought it would have been better if we had put a match to it.

1978 we had the new building on site and it was proposed to have an Open Day this was arranged for 6th May 1978 and Mr. Acheson from York performed the opening ceremony gifts were given to Mr. P. Wise and Mr. G. Newby for the services they had given free.

Gifts received in donations from Mr. & Mrs. C. Blacker, Mr. & Mrs. Jarrold, and Mr. E. Jarrold these donations paid for the Wall Lights.

The following gifts were also received:-

Mr. & Mrs. Papworth	Piano
Mrs. R. Falkingham	Large Mirror for Ladies Cloak/R
Mr. R. Skowronek	Stainless Steel Water Boiler

Mr. F. Gordon hung a painting of parts of the village and also a commemorative plaque.

There was also a lot of time and money given by Mr. D. Hunt, Mr. C. Wright and Mr. C. Leak in preparing the site and helping with the building.

The Secretary retired in 1980 due to ill health, when Mr. F. Gordon took over as Secretary.

The functions carried on and Mrs. M. Hunt was able to maintain a healthy - balance in the bank.

Any job that required doing in the way of maintenance Mr. David Hunt was called upon.

Mrs. Margaret Hunt retired in 2003 after 30 years service for the Village Hall leaving a Cash balance together with investments of £7840.63 which speaks volumes for the work that she put into keeping the Hall solvent.

Mr. M. Simpson continues as Chairman, Mrs. J. Read takes over as treasurer and Dr. D. Aston continues as the Secretary.

The ensuing 30 years have fulfilled the hopes and dreams of that first small founding band of workers, providing the Village with happy memories of a meeting place used by so many, young and old, for such diverse occasions from coffee mornings, elections, night classes, temporary Church Services to childrens' parties, wedding receptions, Golden Wedding celebrations etc. The annual Turkey Supper is a happy event bringing new and long time villagers together.

May each new generation continue to bring a renewal and vigour to this happy meeting place.

J V Skowronek

Building of Wresle Village Hall 1977.

Income

Dept of Environment £7,951.00.
50%

Kumberside
16 3/4

Boothferry
8 3/4 £11,935.42.

Wresle Vill.

Hall Committee

4,154.59.

2,662.53

1,321.89.

£16,090.01

Expenditure

S & B (Structures) steelwork

£2,563.10.

Geo. Morley - builder

10,916.38.

Prestige ceilings

881.40.

Maple dance floor

172.80.

Sanders etc. for floor

51.09.

Electrical contractor

806.68.

V.E.B. electrical installation etc.

129.00.

Gorko & Water Ltd - connection

52.00.

Kitchen units

398.16.

Paint & paper

119.40.

£16,090.01.