

Purchase of an Old Army Hut as a Recreation Room



I have been working on Canon Richard Phillips diaries and can shed some new light into the actual purchase of the Recreation Hut.

On March 25th 1919, the first suggestion of a Recreation Hut was raised at a Parish Meeting.

On 17th November 1920, at a Special Parish Meeting:

"Despite the problems of the deficit in the Allotment Accounts, a special Parish meeting was called to consider the question of purchasing an Army Hut for the purpose of a Parish Recreation Room. It was proposed that despite previous objections the hut should be built on the Recreation Ground & that £40 from the balance of the

Recreation Ground Accounts be put towards the cost with the rest coming from a parish member's subscription. The Recreation Room Treasurers account book records on its inside page that between April 1921 & March 1922 a total of £19 17s. 8d. was raised by subscription.

A committee was appointed to purchase & erect the hut which consisted of the Revd. Phillips, Mr Samuel Taylor, Mr Franklin, Mr French, & Mr Samuel Conder."

On November 23rd 1920 at a Sale in Cherry Hinton, our hut was bought for £83 12s 0d. On November 26th Canon Phillips and old Mr Robin Franklin went round the village to collect for the hut.

On December 2nd 1920, Canon Phillips drove to RAF Fowlmere and bought £9 17s 0d worth of tables and chairs for the hall. These were some of the old ones in the shed and had been used by fighter pilots waiting to scramble.

On February 11th 1921, there was a sale of all the surplus wood used in putting the hut together; we have a copy of this original list, some 13 ft lengths from the roof, the rest of the money was relatively quickly raised with various social events, mainly Dances, Whist Drives and what appears to be the annual Cricket match against Babraham, which Hildersham appears to regularly thrash!!!

On March 28th 1921, the Recreation Room was officially opened at 7pm. It was a lovely bright sunny day and the whole village turned out to christen the new village hall.