

Conservation and Celebration: A Century of Serving Our Community as a Parish Hall



Community Centenary Celebration Event 16th March 2019



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Background

Our story begins with the appointment of Reverend Horace Ayton Hill, who became rector of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary, East Worlington in 1891 and of St Mary, West Worlington in 1902. In 1885 the civil parish of West Worlington was merged, for civic administrative purposes, into the neighbouring small parish of East Worlington, and in 1919 it was merged into the ecclesiastical parish of East Worlington to form a single ecclesiastical parish of East Worlington. Reverend Hill was a strong community minded clergy and during the time of his incumbency there are recorded events which confirm the barn was used for community purposes from early 1900s. In "East Worlington Kalendar of Quotidian Quotations" of 1910 Rev. H.A. Hill referred to the building *'The barn ... has been converted by the present Rector into a Parish Room and is known as "Ye Olde Tythe Barn."*

In 1919 the Reverend Hodgson became rector of the parish.

Following World War 1 there was national consensus that those who served and died should be remembered. On a national level the government decided in principle on a national memorial in London which it would pay for. The government made it clear, however, that it would not pay for local war memorials and that these should be the responsibility of local communities. As a result of the informal discussions which ad-hoc groups had been having throughout the country, there was an equally informal blueprint about how to create a local war memorial.

In East Worlington there was a meeting in the 'Old Tithe barn' to consider what steps should be taken by the parish to provide a suitable War Memorial.

The idea to provide a Memorial Hall gained unanimous support. It was decided that the Hall should be the absolute property of the parish, and in which all kinds of entertainment and meetings could be held. The Rector explained that in all probability the 'Old Tithe Barn' would be put up for auction in the near future or failing a purchaser would be demolished. He explained that it rests with the Committee to decide whether or not to purchase the old building and renovate it.

The Committee agreed that the expenditure of, say, £100 or £150 would provide a very fine room as a Memorial Hall, at a fraction of the cost of erecting an entirely new building. Therefore, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of the barn from the church. The conveyance of the building from church ownership to East Worlington Parish Council ownership was completed on 18th May 1920.

Researching Our Heritage

In 2014 we establish our Worlington Heritage Group to research Parish Hall and Community history as part of our Heritage Lottery supported project Conserve & Research East Worlington Parish Hall, a Converted C17th Cob & Thatched Tithe Barn OH-12-12290. Following the conclusion of this HLF project in 2016 the group continued to research and continued to contribute to our knowledge and archive of evidence and records. This work was greatly enhanced by the HLF project OH-16-04660 Conservation and Celebration: A Century of Serving Our Community as a Parish. This Community Centenary Celebration Event provided a great opportunity to share some of this information with the community and celebrate. A sample of the archived information can be found on our Heritage website www.ewph.uk

Publicising the Event

Our celebration aimed at our full community.

We used several methods to publicise the event, including hardcopy noticeboard poster, community website notices, community email distribution, our social media outlets and of course the power of community by word of mouth.

The attendance at the event demonstrated the interest and strength of our community with over 80 residents (just over 30% of our parish population) coming together to celebrate.

An Evening of Celebration
A Century of Serving Our Community
as a Parish Hall
Saturday 16th March 2019 7.00pm to 11.00pm
A Community Social Event—All Welcome
Part of the Parish Hall Heritage Project
Relax Dress Casual Enjoy
THE EVENING
• No Entrance Fee
• One Free Celebratory Drink Per Person
• Licenced Bar
• Buffet at Reasonable Prices
• Information -Then to Now
• Centenary Music Quiz
• Optional - We welcome those who wish to wear clothing in a style of any decade within the last 100 years but this is not compulsory
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Community Celebration

It was a great experience to be part of this celebration and see so many of our community attend this important event. All attendees were welcomed with a celebration drink and a range of canapés which added to the buzzing congenial atmosphere. The first part of the evening was an opportunity for all to socialise and chat with community members. The opportunity for community socialisation illustrates the importance of the Hall to our rural and isolated community.

The community spirit and energy has been a driving force of the Hall over the last century and this evening was a superb demonstration of it in 2019.

Here are some photographs of our community at the event.



Living History Through the Decades

To add relevance and interest to this centenary event attendees were invited to dress in a style of any decade over the last 100 years. The photographs below show an example of our community who entered into the spirit of the event by dressing in a style to reflect the decade they had chosen. They had spent time to research and prepare their costumes which added to the excellent results.

1920s

Liz dressed in 1920s 'Roaring Twenties' costume



The **1920s**, also known as the '**Roaring Twenties**', was a decade of contrasts. The First World War had ended in victory, peace had returned and with it, prosperity. One feature of this decade was the fashion trends for women.

- Below knee length drop waist dresses with a loose, straight fit
- Beaded evening dresses inspired by “flappers”
- Mary Jane or T-strap heels
- Casual sport golf knickers, argyle socks, blouse and tie
- Cocoon fur coats and fringe wraps
- Cloche hats and short bobbed hairstyles
- Bead or feather headbands for evenings
- Long pearl necklaces, bold Art Deco colours, faux gemstones
- Small beaded purses held pretty makeup compacts and cigarette cases

The Women's Land Army (WLA) made a significant contribution to boosting Britain's food production during the Second World War. Before the Second World War, Britain had imported much of its food. When war broke out, it was necessary to grow more food at home and increase the amount of land in cultivation. With many male agricultural workers joining the armed forces, women were needed to provide a new rural workforce. The WLA had originally been set up in 1917 but disbanded at the end of the First World War. It reformed in June 1939. Women were initially asked to volunteer to serve in the Land Army and, from December 1941, could also be conscripted into land work. At its peak in 1944, there were more than 80,000 women – often known as 'land girls' – in the WLA. Land girls did a wide variety of jobs on the land. They worked in all weathers and conditions and could be directed to work anywhere in the country.

1940s

Rosemary dressed as a Women's Land Army Girl



1950s

Ron dressed as a Teddy Boy with his Teddy Girl, Shirley



Teddy Boys

In 1953, a sweeping trend in fashion took over Britain's teen boys. It was an adaptation of Edwardian romanticism; tailored velvet blazers and button-down shirts coupled with drainpipe jeans or trousers, skinny ties, and chunky leather shoes. Topping off the outfit with a quiffed up hairdo, and we have the look of a classic Teddy Boy. The Teddy Boy was much more than just a fashion statement — it was an entire British subculture. Born from post-war gloom in the early 1950s, Teddy Boys (Teds, as they preferred to be called) were Britain's original teen subculture.

Hippie Movement

The 1960s were an age of fashion innovation for women. One phase of the decade was the 'Hippie Movement'. Hippies were the natural outgrowth of the 'Beat movement' in the 1950s. Interested in an alternative lifestyle and rebelling against a society which some considered was increasingly conformist and repressive, they were focused on freedom and getting back to nature. Hippie clothing was often loose and made of natural fibres like cotton and hemp. Men and women grew their hair long and nonconformist styling. Anything handmade, whether sewn, knit or woven as macramé, was prized. Gradually, this extended towards dyeing one's own clothes, and the colourful tie-dye style became popular.

1960s

Maxine enjoying the 'peace man' image of the 'Hippie Movement'



1970s

Brian in his 'I was there' suit



The Three-piece Suit

The waistcoat was first introduced by Charles II on October 7th 1666 (about the same time our barn was being built). The three-piece suit evolved through the industrial revolution and gained much support as the 'business man' image. Loosing favour around 1935 the waistcoat with a snug fitting suit coat had a resurgence in the 1970s. This new three-piece style became closely associated with disco culture, (popularized by the film *Saturday Night Fever*), while still retaining a business or 'office' suit importance. By 1985-1986, three-piece suits were on the way out and making way for cut double-breasted and two-piece single-breasted suits.

Celebration Cake

Many celebrations have a cake as a central feature. We are no different, and we had a special celebratory cake baked and iced. On the top of the icing was an image of the Hall as it was around 1919. We invited one of our residents who had for well over 50 years served our community and had made a significant contribution to our Parish Hall over that period of time, to cut the cake.



Sharing Learning

Steve Baber, project lead, provided a short interesting talk with slides to explain about the history of the Hall, how it had been developed as a building and how it had been used for a wide range of community purposes.

The slides used to illustrate the talk are shown below.



Origins

Glebe Terriers related to East Worlington Rectory

- ✓ 1605 and 1613 refers to land only
- ✓ 1679, 'Dairy with a chamber over it, malt house with a chamber over it, a drift (?) for drying of malt, a barn built with mud walls, a shiping (shippon) and stable.'
- ✓ 1727 'The outhouses are a barn consisting of five bays, a sheeping (shippon) of three bays and a stable of two bays all having mud walls and thatch covering...'

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Origin

Tythe Barn or Threshing Barn or Combination

- ✓ Large double doors opposite each other
- ✓ The barn is divided into bays by the trusses which support the roof
- ✓ Threshing Floor on one side of main doors
- ✓ Floors were constructed simply of compacted earth. Rammed chalk / lime floors occur in some areas
- ✓ Higher level for storage on other side of main doors

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HLF Project Themes Serving Our Community

- ✓ Community social well-being
- ✓ Community cohesion and inclusivity
- ✓ Community infrastructure e.g. meetings
- ✓ Education and learning
- ✓ Physical well-being
- ✓ Interest Groups and Clubs
- ✓ Culture and the Arts



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Reverend Horace Ayton Hill (B.A.) Era

- ❖ Rector West Worlington 1891
- ❖ Rector East Worlington 1902
- ❖ Retired 1919
- ❖ Died 1929



As a minister he was loved by all and was a keen worker amongst his parishioners. For many years he acted a secretary to the Worlington Flower Show.

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Dairy School at East Worlington 1909



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Parochial Dance on Shrove Tuesday 1906

Music by Mr F Lovell (Chulmleigh)
and during interval
Gramophone Mr Mounts (Afton)



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Reverend Henry John Hodgson - Tragic Mistake

Reverend Hodgson

- ✓ Used a Boer artillery shell as a door-weight in his sitting room, never supposing it was 'alive'.
- ✓ He also possessed a sword bayonet for French Manufacture.
- ✓ On 24th December 1913 he intended to bend the bayonet and attach it as a crook to the shell.
- ✓ He heated and bent the bayonet, took out the percussion cap, and inserted the end of the hot bayonet in the hole in the shell.
- ✓ The shell immediately exploded with serious effects.
- ✓ Hodgson's right leg was fractured below the knee his right wrist terribly lacerated, and his face badly burned by the igniting powder.
- ✓ This rendered Reverend Hodgson disabled for the rest of his life.

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Serving Our Community

East Worlington Population			
Year	Male	Female	Total
1891	219	200	419
1901	184	145	329
1911	178	146	324
1921	168	152	320
1931	149	145	294
1951	152	151	303
1961	132	128	260
2011	107	113	220

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Ye Olde Tythe Barn

Rev. H.A.Hill who referred to the house in his
"East Worlington Kalendar of Quotidian Quotations"
of 1910

'The barn ... has been converted by the present Rector into a Parish Room, and is known as "Ye Olde Tythe Barn."



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Inside View of Hall



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Reverend Henry John Hodgson (M.A.) Era

- ❖ Rector from 1919 to 1937
- ❖ Before Worlington:
 - ✓ birth was on 20th March 1860 in Brighton, Sussex
 - ✓ Headmaster St Peter's School, Exmouth 1890 to 1913
 - ✓ Ordination Service held in Exeter Cathedral on 10th June 1906
 - ✓ Hodgson was licensed as curate at Withercombe Raleigh in Exmouth.
 - ✓ 24th October 1913 Henry John Hodgson was licenced by the Bishop of Exeter to be curate of Crediton

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WW1 National Memorial Initiative

- ✓ Following World War 1 those who served and died should be remembered.
- ✓ National level: a national memorial in London which Government would pay for.
- ✓ Local level: The Government would not pay for local war memorials and that these should be the responsibility of local communities.

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WW1 Local Memorial Initiative

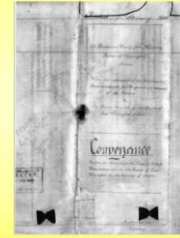
- ✓ Meeting in East Worlington supported provision of a Memorial Hall.
- ✓ The view that it must be the absolute property of the parish, and in which all kinds of entertainment and meetings could be held.
- ✓ The Rector explained that in all probability the Old Tithe Barn would be put up for auction in the near future or failing a purchaser would be demolished.
- ✓ It rested with the Committee to decide whether or not they shall purchase the old building and renovate it.
- ✓ There is no doubt that the expenditure of, say, £100 or £150 would provide a very fine room as a Memorial Hall, at a fraction of the cost of erecting an entirely new building.
- ✓ Amid much enthusiasm Mr Stucley announced that he would start the ball rolling with a donation of £50.

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Sale of the Barn

Conveyance 18th May 1920

£10



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Use of Hall During 1920s and 1930s

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Whist Drives | ✓ Rifles Club |
| ✓ Dances | ✓ Bazzars and Sales |
| ✓ Choir Suppers | ✓ Election Addresses |
| ✓ Ringers Suppers | ✓ Dairy School |
| ✓ Lady Stucley Children's Treat | ✓ Sunday School Treats |
| ✓ Concerts | ✓ Meetings |
| ✓ Sports Club Events | ✓ Farmers Club |

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The War Years

- ✓ The Hall continued to serve the community
- ✓ Parish continued to have own rectors
 - Reverend T.H.E. Woods (1937 to 1942)
 - Reverend W.H. Maddock (1937 to 1960)
- ✓ Home Guard 1940 to 1943
- ✓ Evacuees
- ✓ Searchlight Camp

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1950 Decade of Utilities and Facilities

- ✓ Electric
- ✓ Heating
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Kitchen Developments? (Expenditure British Railways 21st October 1958)



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1960's

- ✓ Important relationship between owners of East Worlington House and East Worlington Parish Hall
- ✓ Impact of the Stevens owners of East Worlington House
- ✓ Toilets and Foyer
- ✓ Storeroom



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1970 Start of Sponsored Walk



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1970s

- ✓ Charity Status 28th August 1974
- ✓ Listed Building Registration 03rd October 1975
- ✓ EEC Referendum 1975



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1993 A Good Old Fashioned Music Hall



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1990s / 2000 Securing the Future

- ✓ Constitution
- ✓ Lease
- ✓ Holding Trustees – Charity Commission
- ✓ Conservation of Hall
- ✓ Millennium Project - in 2000 the Hall was restored using traditional materials



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Features of 2010s

- ✓ Conservation and Improvements
 - ✓ Main Hall
 - ✓ Kitchen
 - ✓ Foyer
- ✓ Fund-raising
- ✓ Community Programme
 - ✓ Brunch
 - ✓ Laughing Cockerel
 - ✓ Events
 - ✓ Lunches
 - ✓ Talks
 - ✓ Entertainment
 - ✓ Quizzes



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The Future
Another Century Serving Our Community
Driving Principles



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Music Quiz



Entertainment was organised by a member of our community who ran a music quiz, with examples of music from a century of decades with some favourites that brought back memories.

Celebrating the Past: Celebrating the Future

To conclude our celebration event, we toasted the Parish Hall last century and looked forward with optimism to the next 100 years.

1919



Community Origins

2019




A Community Hub


2119



Community of the Future



Time to Celebrate 100 Years
Serving Our Community as a Parish Hall



Here's to the Past **Here's to the Future**