

## The Last Time the Hall was Re-built

1977 – the year of the Silver Jubilee – the AGM was concerned with getting the Hall in a fit state for the celebrations.

By 1979 it was thought necessary that the wiring be inspected for safety. Mr Paul gave a report on the condition of the Hall, on the repairs that were needed and of the approach made to the Parish Council for financial assistance. After discussions it was agreed that a working party be set up to consider the possibility of fund raising for an extension which could be used for storage.

At the 1981 AGM it was reported that the Appeal Fund stood at £2224.94.

During the whole of August 1981 the Hall was closed so that major repair work could be carried out. On examination of the floor supports, it became evident that the lower half of the walls needed repair. Both the lower walls and the floor were reinforced and the walls insulated in an attempt to keep in some of the heat. Finally the Hall was completely decorated, including the ceiling and beams. All repairs were carried out by volunteers from within our community and the Chairman's thanks went to them all. All expenses were borne by the Parish Council.

Year ending 1983 the Appeal Fund stood at £5572.23.

New Village Hall – A rough estimate for a completed building had been received. The figure was £60,000. The funds available for the project were as follows:

Loan sanction – Parish Council	£25,000
Village Hall Appeal Fund	5,000
County Council Grant	15,000
District Council Grant	7,500
	-----
Total	£52,500

At this stage there was obviously a £7,500 shortfall. The Village Hall Management Committee had a further £1000 available but 'the remainder has to be found before the end of June otherwise we forfeit the grants already agreed and would have to re-apply. Approaches will be made to the Parish Council to see if they can help in any way.

AGM 26<sup>th</sup> April 1984. The Chairman (Mr Alan Clarke), reported on the developments with the new Hall since the last AGM.

'In 1983, a Sub-Committee was formed to take over negotiations relating to the new Hall. In August seven contractors were invited to tender for the building work and three were subsequently interviewed. After receiving quotes, it was apparent that funds were insufficient and therefore more closely defined specifications for a more basic hall (i.e. no heating etc) were drawn up and quotations were invited from two of the contractors.

In October 1983, the contractor was selected and negotiations commenced to draw up a suitable contract. This was signed on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1983. Building work on the new Hall commenced almost immediately but was halted quite abruptly due to three major factors. Firstly alterations to the plans had to be carried out (due to the brick piers being moved from the interior to the exterior). This resulted in the new building being very tightly situated on the site available and new plans had to be drawn up showing a reverse siting of the building. Secondly, the Building Inspector required deeper foundations to the building and changes to the floor of the main hall. New approval was subsequently obtained. These changes resulted in an extra £2500 (approx.) on the cost of the new building. The third major setback has been the inclement weather. The contractor will be returning to the site after the Easter break and it is hoped for a completion date of late August/early September'.

25<sup>th</sup> April 1985 – Mr Clarke reported on the events which took place during the year relating to the building of the new Village Hall:

'...hopes expressed at last year's AGM of completing the Hall by late August/early September 1984 had been dashed. The builders had estimated that they would complete by the end of July 1984; regrettably they took a lot longer. The members of the Committee are now hard at work every weekend finishing off the interior of the Hall. The expected completion date is now July 1985. Mr Clarke gave special thanks to Mr Terry Woodward, who has made such a marvellous job of transferring the floor from the old hall to the new.

With work still to be done on the Hall, Mr Clarke estimated that a further £5000 would be required. The funding of the new hall is as follows:

Village has raised	£9,412.78
Parish Council Grant	31,000.00
County Council Grant	15,000.00
Maldon Council Grant	7,500.00
	-----
Loan	3,000.00
	-----
Total	£69,912.78

Finally it was reported that the old village hall would be used (for the last time and minus most of its floor) on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May for the local elections.

24<sup>th</sup> April 1986 – The Chairman reported that the old Village Hall was demolished shortly after the last AGM. Work then commenced on fitting out the new hall. Up until the time that the Hall was opened, the village had raised £11,600.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1985, the builders were paid the remainder of the retention money and the sub-committee was dissolved. The major job to be completed is that of the car park and the paths surrounding the Hall.

The new Hall was opened in mid-November.