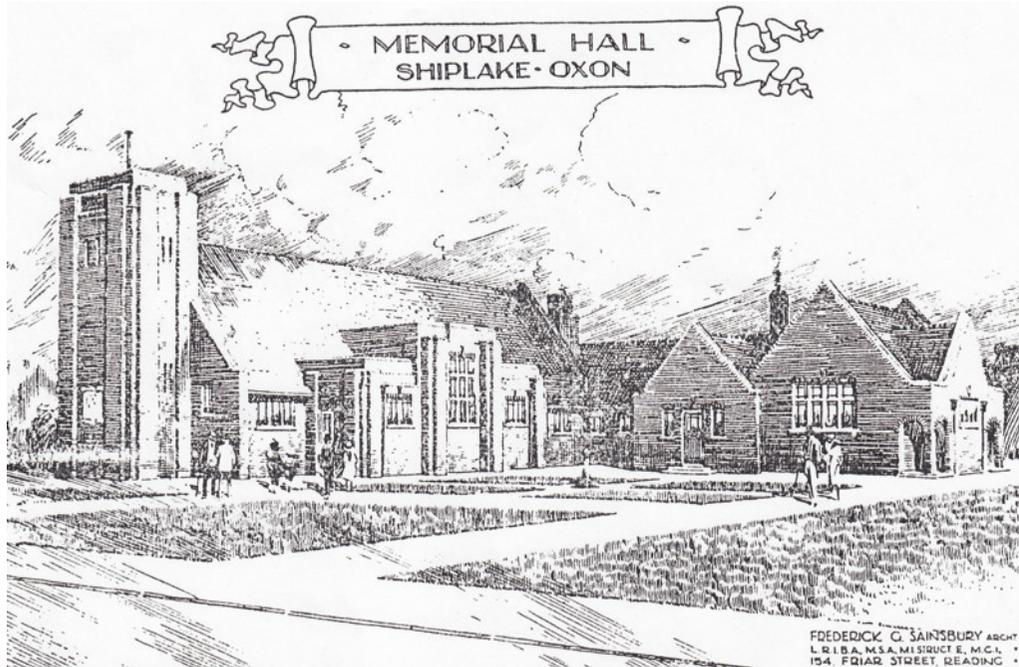


WELCOME TO SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL

THE HALL WAS BUILT IN 1926 AS THE GIFT OF THE MARDON FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON REX WHO WAS KILLED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

THE FAMILY DONATED THE LAND AND PAID FOR THE BUILDING WHICH COST £8384. ALL THE PARISH HAD TO DO WAS CREATE A SINKING FUND OF £2000 TO PAY FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE



THE HALL ON OPENING



THE HALL TODAY

THE OFFER FROM THE MARDON FAMILY AND FUND RAISING BEGINS

ORIGINALLY IT WAS INTENDED JUST TO BUILD A HALL FOR "MEETINGS AND SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT" BUT THIS WAS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE A "SOCIAL CLUB OR VILLAGE INSTITUTE"



Rex Mardon killed in action October 1918

EXTRACT FROM THE BELFRY JANUARY 1925

Election and other things, nothing further was done until Saturday, November 29th, when the Committee met to consider the position.

Sir Frederick Eley was then appointed Chairman, H. J. Young Deputy Chairman, W. C. Laurence Honorary Treasurer, and F. Simpson Honorary Secretary.

The original idea of the donors was that this building should be used only for public meetings, social entertainment and the like but the Committee felt that it was desirable to widen the scope of such purpose so as to include a social club or Village Institute.

Mr. and Mrs. Mardon were then approached and immediately appreciated the desirability of having such an institution in the Parish.

Not only did they consent to the recommendations of the Committee but they also offered the very substantial sum of £500 towards defraying the extra cost involved in enlarging the plan of the proposed building, over and above that originally offered.

As was pointed out in a leaflet which had been sent to each parishioner, there are already two War Memorials in the Parish. These are memorials purely and simply to the dead, without material benefit to the living. They are the outward and visible signs of sorrow, of homage to, and grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives for their King and Country in the War.

Then there is a third, to the genesis of which Shiplake largely subscribed, namely The Henley Cottage Hospital which is doing a great work in alleviating suffering. This is expressive of the intense sympathy that all feel in the sufferings that the wounded endured on the battle fields.

There are those then who think that of Memorials, as such, an elegant-sufficiency already exists—but what of those who went through the fire and survived? It is partly to their honour and as a token of gratitude and thanksgiving at their happy return that this hall is to be dedicated.

Many will ask "Is such a hall necessary and desirable?"

The answer is this, "That the present Parish Hall, undoubtedly the property of the Church, being originally erected for the purpose of accommodating functions directly connected with Church work, is inadequate and unsuitable for the uses that it is now put to, which uses crowd out and defeat the original object for which it was intended, with the consequence that many meetings have to be housed in the Vicarage which is not only an encroachment on the home privacy of an already overworked Vicar, but is a direct tax upon him especially by way of wear and tear, domestic service, entertainments, etc."

At the same time there is a growing demand (and as the parish increases so will the demand become larger) for accommodation for social gatherings of all kinds, lectures, concerts, dances and so on and by embodying the institute idea into the scheme, the proposed hall should prove a great acquisition to everyone. Moreover, under the "Carnegie Trust" it may be possible to obtain a grant to establish a lending library also.

Another question that may arise: "Is the expenditure of this capital sum and the raising of the endowment fund (some £1,500) justified under the present circumstances?"

The answer to the first part of this question entirely concerns the donors, but it will materially assist unemployment in the district, especially if local labour, so far as is possible, is employed—again, as regards the endowment fund by rising to the occasion and subscribing the necessary amount, the parishioners will acquire a valuable asset to the Parish at about one quarter of the intrinsic value and, thus, as temporary trustees of the welfare of the parish they will be lacking in their duty to posterity if they do not clinch an offer which is never likely to be repeated.

The following donations have already been promised:—Lord Phillimore £50, Sir Frederick Eley £100, Mr. Nicholson £50, Mrs. W. C. Laurence £50, Mr. W. C. Laurence £50, Mr. Stobart £50, and two others of £25 each.

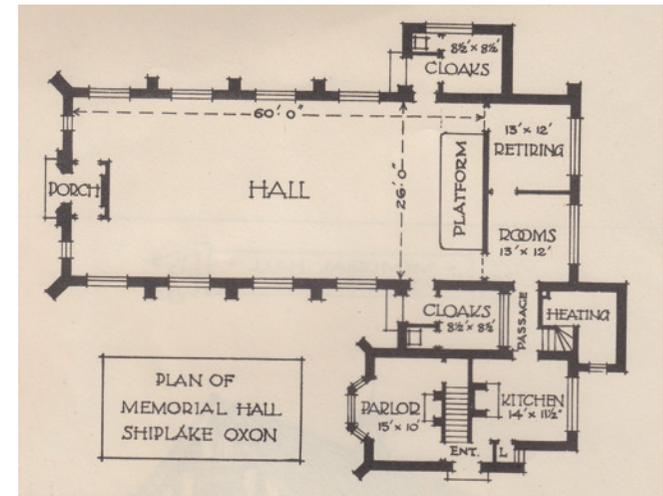
The total amount required for the endowment and for including the Institute is some £2,500.

The feeling in the minds of the donors however, is that all in the parish should participate, from those who can only afford to give say 10/- or 20/- upwards, in order that each and every one may take a co-operative interest in making the scheme a thorough success by doing something to realise that grand ideal, "A Better England."

Donations may be sent to F. Simpson, The "Gables," Shiplake, Hon. Secretary, or W. C. Laurence, The Knoll, Shiplake, Hon. Treasurer.



Mr & Mrs Mardon



The originally proposed hall layout

New Hall.
THE Editor of the Magazine is in no way responsible for the following statement but gladly prints it in full at the request of the Committee.

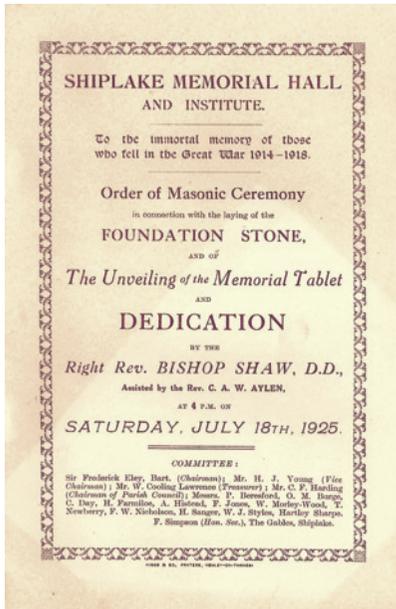
SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL AND INSTITUTE.

Some two months have passed since the generous offer of Mr. and Mrs. Mardon, of Haileywood (to give sufficient land and to erect a Hall costing some £3,500 in the parish at their own expense, subject to the condition that an adequate endowment fund be raised towards its maintenance by August, 1925) was announced at a Public Meeting presided over by Lord Phillimore, when a resolution was passed unanimously accepting their offer.

The site offered, a most central one, is facing School Road half-way between the Schools and the Henley Road, with some five acres of land adjoining which would probably be developed later as recreation and sports fields.

A Committee of five, with power to add their number, was formed, but, owing to the General

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE JULY 1925



REPORT IN THE HENLEY STANDARD

SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL AND INSTITUTE.

MASONIC STONE LAYING CEREMONY. & UNVEILING OF A MEMORIAL TABLET.

For a place of its size there are few parishes in England which is richer in memorials to the illustrious-dead than the parish of Shiplake. It has its memorials in the church; there is that beautiful memorial cross at Hollybush Corner; the Ancient Order of Foresters have their memorial in their Court Room at "The Plough"; and now, to crown all the rest, a magnificently designed memorial hall and institute are being erected on land, given by Mr. R. H. Mardon, situated on Binfield Heath road, near the Schools and Council Cottages. Not only has Mr. Mardon given the land, but he and Mrs. Mardon are generously defraying the expense of the erection, running into a cost of nearly £9,000. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Mardon visited their elder son's grave in France and they were so deeply impressed with what they saw that the offer to erect a memorial hall was made by them with the one proviso that a sum of £1200 be raised to provide a fund for its future upkeep.

This generous offer was accepted and a committee was chosen to raise the money. When the committee met to consider the matter they felt that the scheme would be more complete if a village institute could be added. Consultations took place with the result that Mr. and Mrs. Mardon made the magnificent offer to defray the cost of erection of both the memorial hall and institute, provided that, by June next, £2,000 was raised towards a maintenance or endowment fund. The Committee, of which Sir Frederick Eley, Bart., is chairman, undertook the responsibility of raising the money and issued an appeal for funds. So far £500 has been given or promised, but the committee have every confidence of being able to raise the remaining £1500 by the time specified - June next. Meanwhile building operations are proceeding apace in accordance with plans prepared by Mr. Frederick G. Sainsbury, of Reading, the builders being Messrs. Walden and Son, of Henley-on-Thames.

The structure has advanced to that stage when the memorial corner stone could be laid, and this ceremony was performed on Saturday afternoon and was of a most impressive character. At the same time a memorial stone to the fallen was unveiled. Although it rained in the early morning, the afternoon was gloriously fine, the heat being tempered by a strong breeze from the south-west. The building site was decorated with a plentiful display of flags, and excellent arrangements were made for the location of the several units taking part in the ceremony.

The committee responsible for the arrangements was as follows: - Sir Frederick Eley, Bart., (chairman), Mr. H. J. Young (vice chairman), Mr. W. Cooling Lawrence (treasurer), Mr. F. Simpson (hon. sec.), Mr. C. F. Harding (chairman of the Parish Council), Messrs. P. Beresford, O. M. Burge, C. Day, F. Farmiloe, A. Hinstead, F. Jones, W. Morley Wood, T. Newberry, F. W. Nicholson, H. Sanger, W. J. Styles and Hartley Sharpe.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE.

At 3.45 a procession was formed at the schools and wended its way to the site of the new buildings in the following order:- Cross bearer; Shiplake Parish Church Choir; the Rev. C. A. W. Aylon (vicar); the Right Rev. Bishop Shaw, D.D. (Archdeacon of Oxford); the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of the "Thames" Lodge of Freemasons; Worshipful Bro. Mark V. Weyland (Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire); the Officers and Members of Court "Pride of the Hill," Ancient Order of Foresters, with their banner and in full regalia, the chief officers present being Bro. W. G. Foster (C.R.), Bro. A. Gale (S.C.R.), Bro. Owen Porter (Secretary), Bros. C. J. Smith, H. Walters and J. G. Walters (trustees); the Shiplake Branch of the British Legion in charge of ex-C.P.O. L. Young, and the school children. On arrival at the site the procession passed through an avenue formed of Boy Scouts under the command of Assistant Scoutmaster E. Smith. The several units passed to their allotted places, whilst in an enclosure was a large number of invited guests and the general public formed the fringe. The Freemasons were in full regalia and the Bishop was robed in cope and mitre. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Henley Division, were present to render assistance should it be needed. Sir Frederick Eley presided and with him on the platform were Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mardon, Mr. J. Eric Mardon, Miss Shaw (daughter of the Bishop) and Mr. C. F. Harding (chairman of the Parish Council).

Led by the choir all present joined in singing "O God our help in ages past" to the grand old tune, St. Anne. An exhortation was read by the Vicar setting forth the reasons for their gathering together and asking God of his good providence to bless all who in any way contributed towards the completion of the buildings. The 23rd Psalm having been chanted the laying of the foundation stone was proceeded with in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Freemasons by the Deputy Grand Master of Oxfordshire, officially assisted by the W.M. and officers of the Thames Lodge.

UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL.

The Chairman of the committee (Sir Frederick Eley) next requested Mrs. Mardon (who was assisted by Miss Olive Gray and Master Leslie Gray) to unveil a memorial tablet which has been inserted into the brickwork of the tower facing the road. When the Union Jack covering the tablet (which is of Portland stone) had been removed the following inscription was revealed: - "In grateful memory of those from this parish who answered the call of duty, left all that was dear to them, fought valiantly, and gave their lives, that we may live in freedom, in the Great War, 1914 - 1918. Lest we forget. This hall and institute has been erected and presented for the use of their fellow parishioners by Reginald and Lydia Mardon, whose elder son was killed in the advance on Le Cateau; October 9th; 1918."

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE JULY 1925 - REPORT IN THE HENLEY STANDARD Continued

The Vicar read out the names of the fallen as follows:- Charles Gorell Barnes, D.S.O., M.C., Tom Belcher, Harold Bennett, Eric Cheasley, William Collins, John Cox, Ernest Davies, Bryan Dewes, Robert Dobb, Robert Fairclough, Albert Gale, Ernest Gibbs, Thomas Goff, Francis Gray, Harry Harris, Cecil Harrison, James Hinstead. Alexander Irving, Reginald Mardon, Clarence Marner, Charles Montague, Laurence Nicholson, D.S.O., Richard Painter, William Pawley, Philip Sheham, William Stenner, Charles Smith, George Tedder, Alfred Walters, Leslie Weston, Jack Wickens, George Wyatt, George Young. The Right Rev. Bishop Shaw offered a dedicatory prayer and all present joined in singing the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell."

GENEROUS OFFER BY SIR FREDERICK ELEY.

Sir Frederick Eley said it was his pleasurable duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks and to express their deep gratitude to the donors of that magnificent institution (applause). The committee felt that the new buildings were going to be a lasting benefit to everyone in the village and that great good was to be got out of the place. There were very few places he knew of which had been so fortunate as Shiplake in having a lady and gentleman to come forward and do so wonderfully as Mr. and Mrs. Mardon had done - (applause). He would like Mr. and Mrs Mardon to feel that they had wholeheartedly their thanks and everlasting gratitude - (renewed applause).

They had something practical which they could see and it should appeal to them more than any words he could express. He asked them, therefore, to rally 'round them in the big push. Many of those present knew what that meant in July and August 1918 and he wanted them to realise what that meant in regard to the raising of the maintenance fund by June next. As a parting personal gift he would ask the Committee to request Mr. Mardon to put a price on the five acres of land adjoining the new buildings, which could be used as a sports field and he would give them a cheque for it - cheers. Again he thanked Mr. and Mrs. Mardon and prayed that God might spare them and their son. In asking Mr. Harding to second the proposition he would like to express his appreciation of his work on the committee

HOW TO RAISE THE MAINTENANCE FUND.

Mr. C. F. Harding said that as Chairman of the Parish Council he had much pleasure in seconding the proposition and expressing on behalf of the whole parish their grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Mardon. If he were to search all the dictionaries there were, or had the eloquence of Disraeli or Gladstone, or a University education, words would fail him to adequately express the thanks they felt were due - (applause). Their Chairman had given them a splendid lead and he would like to take that opportunity of thanking him for his generous offer to purchase the adjoining field for a sports ground. They had in the past been indebted to those who had kindly provided them with playing grounds on their own private property, but now they had the prospect in view of their day dream being realised in having a proper sports ground for the whole parish. It was difficult at times, especially after seeing such a solemn ceremony as they had just witnessed, to find words to give expression to one's thoughts.

It had been his privilege to have had many conversations with Mr. Mardon during the past few years and he had always been interested in providing facilities for a village hall. The question had been discussed but he believed that up till twelve months ago no idea whatever was in the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Mardon of what they saw was being raised to-day. They heard at the public meeting which was held last October the sentiments which prompted Mr. and Mrs. Mardon to make the offer, when Mr. Mardon said that after realising the sacrifices which had been made when he visited his son's grave he felt they should make some sacrifice for those who were spared to return home. The new buildings were their sacrifice for the benefit of the village - (applause).

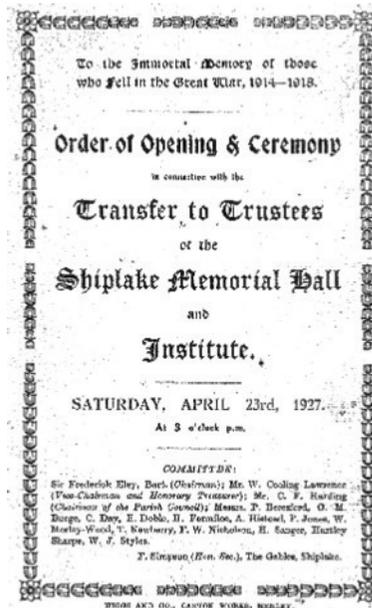
The people of the village were asked to make their sacrifice by providing £2000 as a maintenance fund. They already had £500 and he thought if all took a share the raising of the remaining £1500 was quite feasible. It worked out at a pound per head of the population, but that would not be an equitable way of raising the money. They could not expect the children to give a pound, but if each child sacrificed a farthing per week, in forty-eight weeks that would amount to shilling each, or taking all the children that would mean £5, which he thought would be their share. Those who were older might put aside a penny or threepence per week and if that was done he saw no fear of the amount not being raised. The Committee had never wavered in their opinion that the money would be raised, especially when people saw those magnificent buildings which would be for their use for all time - (applause). When the buildings were completed he asked the parishioners to rally round them by expressing their desires and share with them in the work - (applause). The resolution having been put to the gathering it was carried with ringing cheers.

MR. MARDON'S REPLY

Mr. Mardon said that on behalf of Mrs. Mardon and himself he thanked all present from the bottom of their hearts for coming there and assisting in that solemn ceremony. It was a day which had long been looked forward to and one which they would remember all their lives. Perhaps under Providence those buildings would have a wider influence on the life of the parish than they ever anticipated. He hoped that it would serve to bring them all closer together and that they would also be able to enjoy themselves on the sports ground, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Sir Frederick Eley - (applause). They could make no sacrifice equal that of those thousands of men who, for a shilling a day, went out to fight for their country's freedom and who now lay in countless graves across the water. The least that they could do was to do something for England and the Empire and show the world that they were not unworthy of their heritage - (applause). Let them all pull together, work together, and show those who followed how they had striven for their heritage. He hoped their gift would be one which would not perpetuate his and his wife's memory but the memory of those who went forth never to return - (cheers).

Prayers having been offered and the blessing given by the Bishop, buglers from the Berkshire Regiment sounded the "Last Post" and after a minutes' silence the "Reveille" was rendered, the proceedings concluding with the singing of the National Anthem. Subsequently Mr and Mrs. Mardon entertained the Masonic brethren and a number of guests to tea in a large marquee, the catering being admirably carried out by Mr. W. Good, of Henley. In another marquee the members of the British Legion, Scouts and others were provided with tea, Mr. Owen Porter, of the Plough being the caterer. The school children had tea in their playground.

OPENING THE HALL IN 1927



FROM THE BELFRY

The Memorial Hall Institute opened with a splendidly successful evening on September 28th, which was attended by close on two hundred people. Since then things have been going on steadily and quietly, the Institute being open every week-day evening, and a whist drive or dance being organised each Wednesday. As will be seen elsewhere in this magazine a branch of the Women's Institute has been started here. By arrangement with the Management Committee the members of this will have the use of some parts of the building on Wednesday afternoons, special terms being granted the Women's Institute over a long period.

OPENING THE PLAYING FIELDS IN 1929

SHIPLAKE RECREATION GROUND.

The Playing Field and Recreation Ground adjoining our splendid Memorial Hall and Institute was formally opened by Sir Frederick Eley (the donor of the site) on Saturday, June 15th.

The speakers included the energetic Chairman of the Executive Committee (Mr. Frank Simpson), Sir Frederick Eley, Mr. Eric Mardon, and Mr. Cooling Lawrence.

Mr. Eric Mardon, on behalf of his father who was unfortunately kept away by doctor's orders, presented the Bowling Club with a handsome silver cup for competition.

The Vicar offered prayer and gave the blessing. Music was provided by the Henley Silver Prize Band, and a gymnastic display by the Depôt of the Royal Berkshire Regiment was much enjoyed.

Entertainments of all kinds crowded the afternoon, and the day ended with dancing on the green, and later with a dance in the Memorial Hall.

The whole thing reflects great credit on all who were responsible for its management, and shows what can be done when people are keen and put their backs into it.

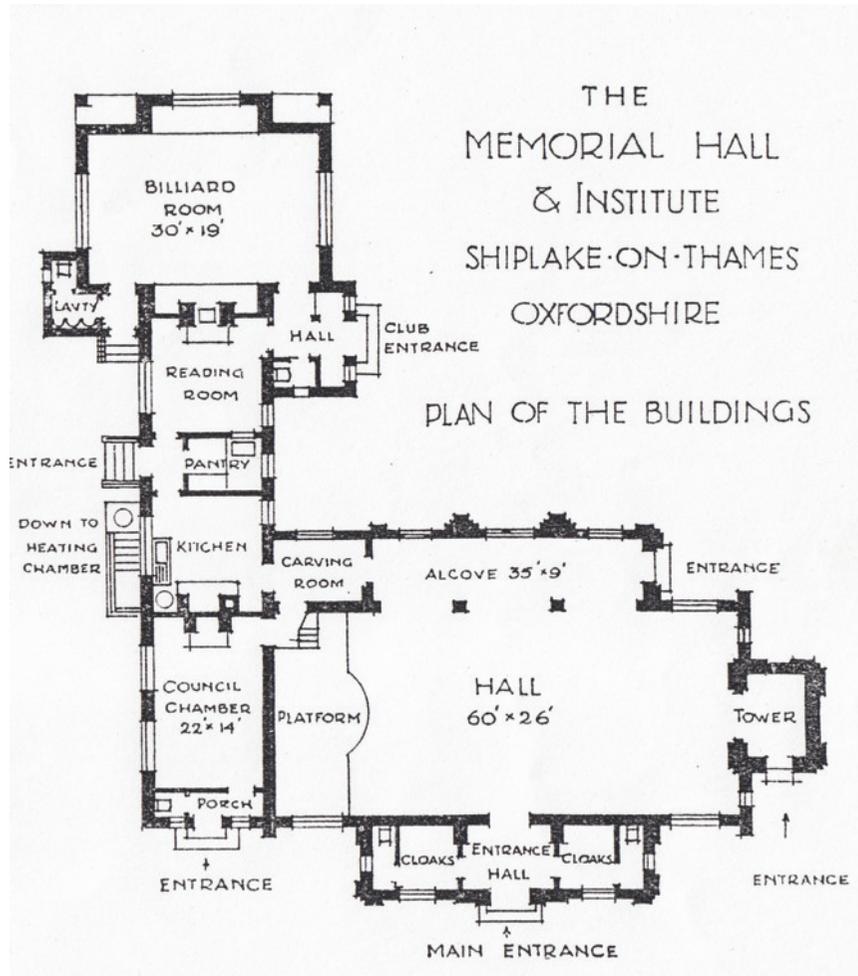
The Henley Standard gives a very full account of the proceedings.

TRUSTEES 1927 :

Sir Fredk Eley - Sackville St, London W1
Frank Simpson - The Gables, Shiplake
Wm Cooling Lawrence - The Knoll, Shiplake
James E Mardon - Springfield Rd, St Johns Wood

THE LAYOUT AS FIRST BUILT

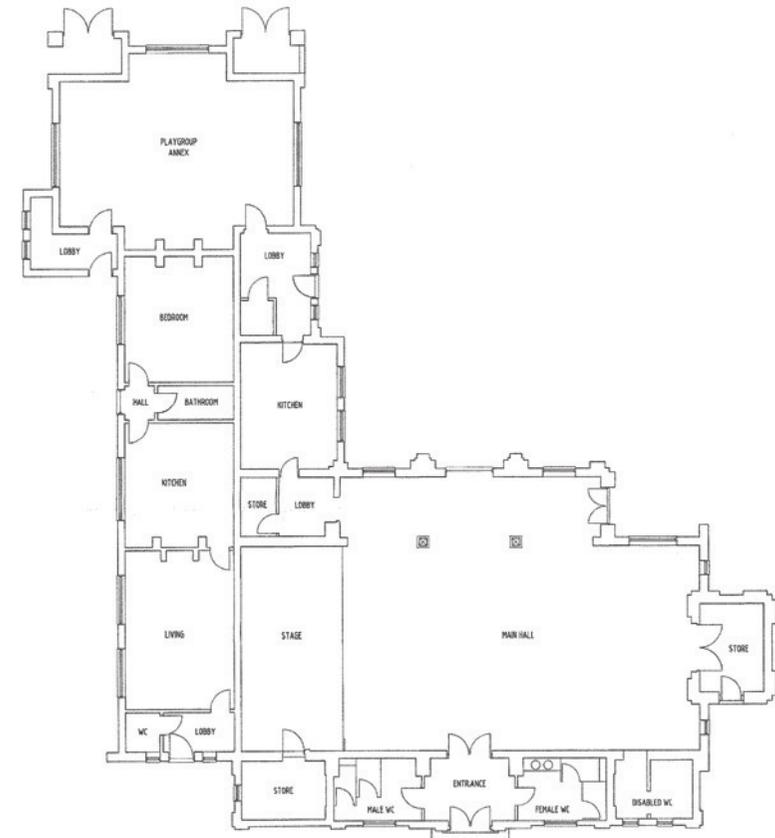
AS WELL AS THE MAIN HALL, THE BUILDING ORIGINALLY INCLUDED A BILLIARD ROOM, KITCHEN, A SEPARATE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND A READING ROOM



DEVELOPMENT OVER THE YEARS

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ORIGINAL KITCHEN & READING ROOM HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO A SELF CONTAINED FLAT WHICH IS RENTED OUT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INCOME TO HELP OFF-SET SOME OF THE COSTS OF RUNNING THE HALL.

THE BILLIARD ROOM IS NOW THE HOME OF THE VILLAGE NURSERY & THE CURRENT KITCHEN WAS BUILT BETWEEN THE CLUB ENTRANCE AND CARVING ROOM



WITH AN 85 YEAR OLD BUILDING MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT ARE A CONTINUING CHALLENGE

RECENT WORK HAS INCLUDED:

- ATTENTION TO LEAKING FLAT ROOFS (MULTIPLE TIMES!)
- REPAIR OF SPALLING BRICKWORK
- EXTERNAL REPAINTING
- SANDING AND RESEALING THE MAIN HALL FLOOR
- REPLACING THE MAIN WATER PIPE
- RENEWAL OF THE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION BOARDS & ASSOCIATED WIRING

FUNDING FOR ALL THIS HAS COME FROM INCOME GENERATED BY HIRING THE HALL

RECENT MAJOR UPGRADES HAVE INCLUDED:

- FITTING OF A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE ALARM AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEM
- FITTING LOW ENERGY LIGHTS
- INSTALLING A SOLAR PV SYSTEM TO GENERATE SOME OF OUR OWN ELECTRICITY

FUNDING FOR ALL THIS HAS COME FROM RESERVES BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS PLUS SOME GRANTS



FITTING SOLAR PV PANELS
IN FEBRUARY 2012



WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO NOW?

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE HALL AND ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE VENUE IN THE YEARS TO COME

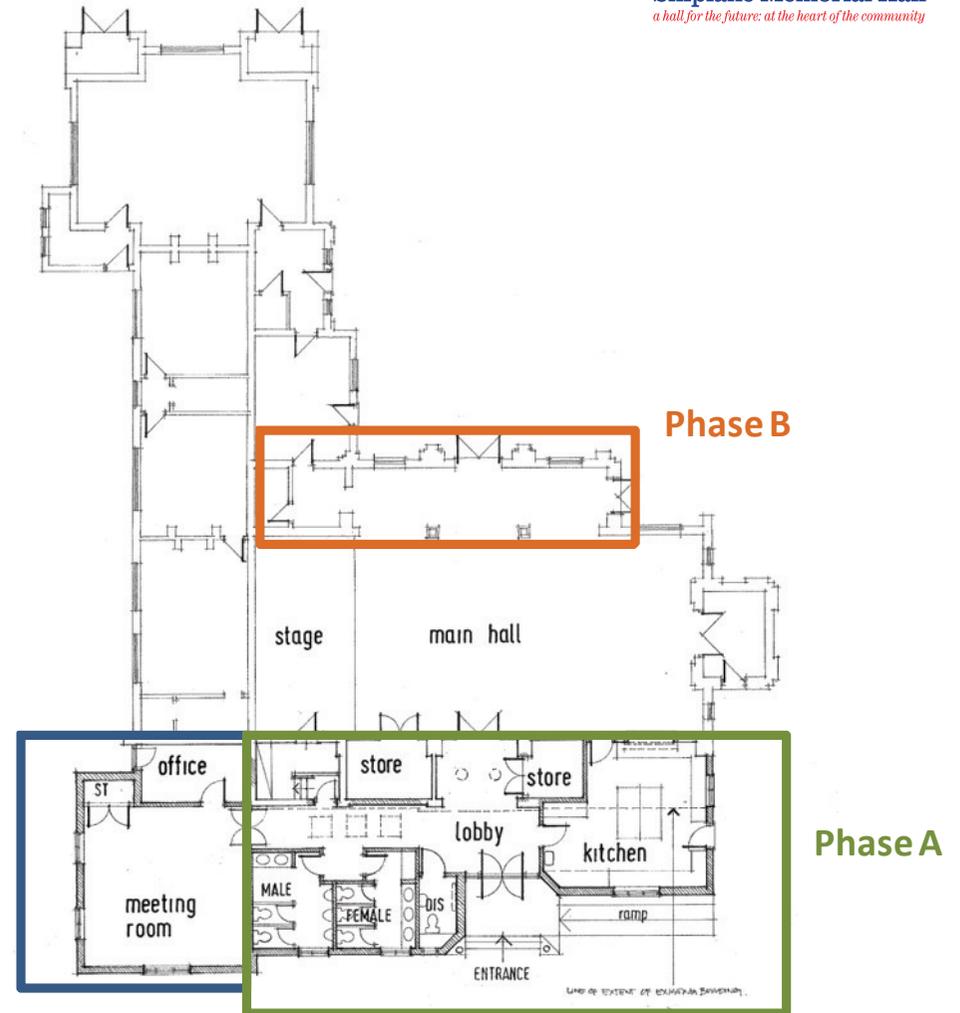
TO DO THIS WE NEED TO:

- A. RADICALLY IMPROVE THE BASIC FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY THE ANTIQUATED KITCHEN, TOILETS & ENTRANCE FOYER
- B. DEAL ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY FLAT ROOFS, IMPROVING INSULATION AT THE SAME TIME
- C. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IN THE FORM OF A NEW MEETING ROOM AND OFFICE FOR THE PARISH CLERK

WE ARE PROPOSING TO TACKLE THIS IN 3 PHASES



AN IMPRESSION OF THE NEW FRONTAGE



NEXT STEPS

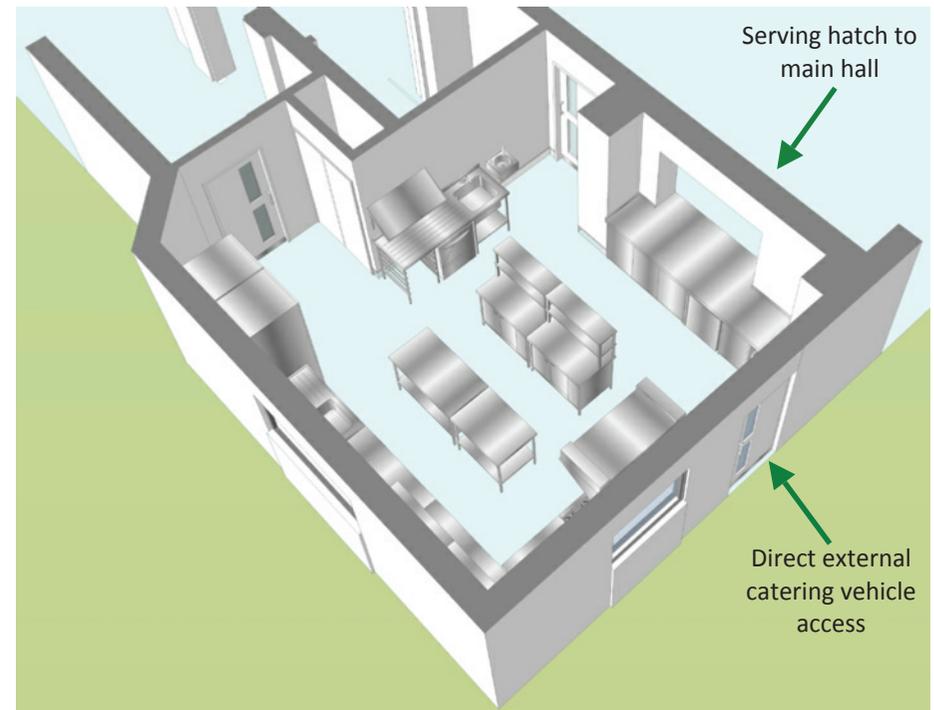
WE HAVE PLANNING PERMISSION & BUILDING REGULATIONS APPROVAL FOR ALL THREE PHASES
OUR BUDGET IS BASED ON COMPETITIVE TENDERS FROM FOUR BUILDING COMPANIES

THE FIRST TASK IS TO RAISE THE REMAINING FUNDING NEEDED FOR *PHASE A*:
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CATERING STANDARD KITCHEN WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO THE MAIN HALL, ALL NEW TOILETS AND A NEW
ENTRANCE AND FOYER INCORPORATING IMPROVED DISABLED ACCESS & PARKING

EXISTING KITCHEN



3D IMPRESSION OF THE NEW KITCHEN



HELP US TO PROTECT THIS VITAL COMMUNITY ASSET

PHASE A WILL COST £365,000



WE ALREADY HAVE:

- £100,000 FROM OUR RESERVE FUND, (REPRESENTS THE BULK OF THE FUND BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS)

, RECEIVED PROMISES OF:

- £50,000 FROM THE PHILLIMORE CHARITABLE TRUST
- £30,000 FROM TWO OTHER LOCAL BENEFACTORS

THIS MEANS WE NEED TO RAISE A FURTHER **£185,000** TO UNDERTAKE PHASE A

PHASE B WILL COST £51,000

PHASE C WILL COST £67,000



WE WILL BE APPLYING FOR GRANTS BUT THESE ARE UNLIKELY TO DELIVER ALL THE REMAINING FUNDING

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP US RAISE THE REMAINING AMOUNT

PLEASE HELP BY DONATING GENEROUSLY

IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER, PLEASE GIFT AID YOUR DONATION

SEE MORE AT www.future.shiplakehall.com INCLUDING A PRINTABLE PDF GIFT AID FORM WITH DETAILS ON HOW TO DONATE