

WELTON, MELTON and WAULDBY MEMORIAL HALL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CLUB

ITS CONCEPTION, BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS.

During the 1939/45 war, various fund raising activities took place in the Parish with the object of presenting all those men and women from the Parish who had served in the forces, with some memento in recognition of their services to King and Country.

All monies raised was placed in the WELTON WELFARE FUND which was managed by a committee and three trustees elected by the parishioners.

The trustees were HARRY EVISON, HENRY KILVINGTON and TOMMY MOORE.

In 1947 a public meeting was called to consider how best to disperse the WELFARE FUND. Among the audience were ex-servicemen and women, and their views were especially canvassed. The groundswell of opinion was in favour of some kind of memorial to those who had fallen.

At this particular period the Harrison-Broadley family, who since the latter part of the eighteenth century had owned virtually all the village and half of the East Riding as well, found themselves in desperate financial circumstances due to being faced with a double lot of death duties. Capt. John Broadley had died in the early part of the war and his son and heir John was killed whilst serving in the R.A.F.

The Broadleys had always taken a paternal interest in the welfare of their employees, and in the late "nineteen hundreds" had built what was known as the Estate Hall. This was situated behind a Georgian house in the centre of the village. Later a billiard room was added.

Later in 1947 at another public meeting, the trustees put forward a suggestion that the executors of the Broadley estate be approached to explore the possibilities of purchasing the Hall for the parish, with the money in the Welfare Fund.

The executors agreed to sell, the Estate Hall, Billiard room, Stewards house and surrounding land, all of which was freehold for £3,250.

On May 12th 1948 at a public meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Hall etc. should be purchased with the money held in the Welfare Fund (plus a mortgage) and that the name of the WELTON WELFARE FUND be changed to the WELTON WELFARE SOCIETY, and that the Hall be known henceforth as THE MEMORIAL HALL in order to perpetuate the memory of those from the Parish who gave their lives in the war.

A general committee was set up which embraced each and every organisation in the village, which ranged from the youth club to the Conservative Association. Each organisation to send one representative. All had equal voting rights covering any issues raised. About 12 different organisations were represented.

The official title then given to the organisation was to be THE WELTON, MELTON and WAULDBY WELFARE SOCIETY.

As such it was registered as a charity for the following reasons.

Reason 1 It afforded the organisation the protection of the Charity Commissioners insofar as it would, in perpetuity remain the property of the people of the Parish of Welton.

Reason 2 It did at that period in time give the Society certain Tax concessions.

The three afore-mentioned trustees were unanimously voted in as trustees for the new Society.

To ensure day to day control of affairs a management committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and treasurer, and four other members were elected by nomination and ballot. Their main function was one of propagating the Society and fund raising activities.

After about a year it was realised that money from Hall lettings, (being the main source of income) could not generate the cash required to service the £2,000 mortgage which had been undertaken at the time of purchase, plus day to day running expenses.

Alternative methods of raising cash had to be found.

In early 1949 it was unanimously agreed that application should be made for a licence to sell liquor on the premises. In order to do so a club would have to be formed. Expert advice was sought and a set of rules drawn up to comply with all the legal requirements of the time.

By mid 1949 all legal requirements and certain minor structural alterations to the premises had been completed and in the late summer a licence was granted to the society under the name of WELTON, MELTON and WAULDBY MEMORIAL HALL SOCIAL CLUB. Complete control of the Club was vested in the Management Committee and Trustees.

Up to this time Mr. Ralph Widd had been the Secretary of the Management Committee but had to relinquish this post on taking up the job of part time Club steward.

Because of the peculiarities of the laws relating to Licensed Clubs, entry could only be allowed to those people of the Parish who became registered members paying a subscription.

This caused some dissension amongst some of the villagers who wrongly believed that everybody in the Parish should have free access. It took a public meeting with a Lawyer present to spell out the law, i.e. only registered members paying a subscription could use the Club.

Membership was open to everybody in the Parish who was over the age of 18.

And so the Club was born and grew to what it is today.

Whilst many members of both the General Management Committee were members of the then fairly powerful Welton Cricket Club, the Cricket Club were never at any time in control of the Society, contrary to popular belief at the time and in subsequent years.

In the late 1950's the General Committee ceased to exist due to the demise of some of the organisations which had received support in the heady days of the war. Thereafter, in agreement with the Charity Commissioners all power and control of the Society's affairs passed to the Trustees and Management Committee.

Irkesome though it may seem at times, the "Founding Fathers" showed much foresight and wisdom in placing the Society under the protective wing of the Charity Commissioners, so as to preserve its identity for future generations.

The carved memorial in the Hall tells everybody that the building and all it stands for belongs to the Parish.

THE CLUB IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE WELTON, MELTON and WAULDBY WELFARE SOCIETY, NOT A SEPARATE ENTITY.

P.S.

The writer was a member of the Committees from the inception of the organisation and Secretary from 1950 - 1956 and again in the late 60's and early 70's.

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