

*NORTH MYMMS MEMORIAL HALL
HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE
OF THE PARISH IN HONOUR OF
THOSE WHO SERVED AND FELL
IN THE TWO GREAT WARS
1914-18 AND 1939-45*

THE LONG JOURNEY—

THE HISTORY OF THE SCHEME

SOME twenty-five years or so ago, when Welham Green began to develop into a populous community, the only buildings available for meetings and other functions were the timber-built hut (well away from the centre of the village) known as the Scout House by reason of its origin, and the Boys' School in Dellsome Lane, built on the site of the old Parish Workhouse in 1887.

Realizing that a suitable hall was necessary, a meeting of the inhabitants was called under the chairmanship of Lord Clauson of Hawkshead House; the project to build such a hall was approved, and a committee was appointed, formed in the main from representatives of the many parochial organisations. The Committee was empowered to prepare a scheme and raise the necessary funds.

The most important consideration was: where should the hall be built? The site must be in the village and it must be a suitable one. With great generosity the late Mr. James Crawford, of Potterells Farm, offered a site fronting the Station Road opposite Sibthorpe Arms. This was a generous and valuable gift, ideally situated and with all main services such as drainage, lighting and heating available nearby.

Plans were prepared and the scheme launched. After the initial enthusiasm and financial support, popularity waned—it must be remembered that the population of Welham Green at that period was barely one-third of its present figure. It looked as if the scheme would have to be abandoned.

Then came September, 1939, and the war. A meeting of the Committee was held in Mr. Crawford's house and all activities ceased for seven years, the scheme being "pigeonholed" while more important things had to be done.

Lord Clauson, the Chairman, died in March, 1946, and the revival of the scheme came under the Chairmanship of Brigadier W. A. G. Burns, D.S.O., O.B.E., of North Mymms Park, who took control with enthusiasm and generosity. The Committee was re-formed and agreed unanimously that the plans tentatively approved were hardly suitable under the new local conditions which had arisen as a result of the war and would arise in the future development planned for the village.

An entirely new type of hall was designed by the well-known architect, Mr. Philip Tilden, and approved by the Committee and a Public Assembly of the Parish. Then came another setback: owing to the post-war restriction on building a licence was refused at each periodic application.

Time passed, and we come to the year 1953. In December another blow fell in the lamented death of Mr. James Crawford, an enthusiastic supporter of the project who had been Honorary

