

# Mere Friends Meeting House 1927

Dated 29 December 1927

Legal Trustee Limited and Friends Trust Corporation Limited

Deed of Grant, of rights of user over premises at Mere, Wiltshire

**This Deed** made the twenty ninth day of December One thousand nine hundred and twenty seven **Between Legal Trustee Limited** whose registered office is situated at 31 Bell Street Shaftesbury in the County of Dorset (hereinafter called "the Company") of the one part and the **Friends' Trust Corporation Limited** whose registered office is situate at Friends House Euston Road London N.W. As Trustee for the Shaftesbury and Sherborne Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends (hereinafter called "the Corporation") of the other part **Whereas** by an equitable Mortgage of even date herewith and made between the same parties the Company deposited with the Corporation certain documents of title relating to freehold premises at Mere Wilts forming part of the Mere Lecture Hall Trust to secure an advance by the Corporation as such Trustee of Three hundred pounds for the period therein mentioned at the nominal interest of five shillings per annum **And whereas** the said Three hundred pounds was raised for paying part of the expense of building additional buildings adjoining the Lecture Hall premises and the Society present Meeting House at Mere Wilts on the East side thereof such additional buildings having inter-communication with the said Society's Meeting House and Lecture Hall premises and accordingly the Monthly Meeting agreed to advance the Three hundred pounds for the period and at the nominal interest aforesaid in consideration of their being given the right of user of the said additional buildings as hereinafter set forth **Now this Deed witnesseth** that for the consideration aforesaid the Company as Trustee hereby grants unto the Corporation **Full right and liberty** for the Shaftesbury and Sherborne Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends and their particular meeting known as the Mere Preparative Meeting at any time or times hereafter not inconsistent with their ordinary use for the purposes of the Mere Lecture Hall to use the said additional buildings and every part thereof for the purpose of their Meetings for Worship on Sundays and for any Quarterly or Monthly Meetings of the Society of Friends and for any other reasonable purpose in connection with public meetings arranged by the Mere Preparative Meeting of for meetings for discipline or business of the said Monthly Meeting **And** the Company hereby acknowledges the right of the Corporation to production of the documents mentioned in the Schedule hereto and to delivery of copies thereof In Witness whereof the parties hereto have hereunto caused their common seals to be hereunto duly fixed the day and year first above written.

**The Schedule** above referred to

1893 June 21st                      **Trust Deed** of Mere Temperance and Lecture Hall

1924 November 22nd              **Conveyance** Alexander Eddington and others to Legal Trustee Limited

**The Common Seal** of **Legal Trustee Limited** was hereunto duly affixed in presence of

John K. Rutter & W. Farley Rutter  
Alice M. Legg

Directors  
Secretary

Letter dated 17th September 1927

from Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Wincanton to Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Shaftesbury

"I looked through the Wincanton Meeting House Deeds in the iron chest at Mere yesterday but the deeds are silent as to ownership of boundary walls. Shall I agree that the wall is ours, and arrange to have it repaired,  
Your affectionate Cousin J.J. Rutter

Letter dated 19th December 1927

from Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Wincanton to Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Shaftesbury

"We thank you for your letter of the 17th instant.

We agree that a small strip of part of the present building forms part of the property of Dewes House Title. On the other hand, a compensating strip in Dewes House garden is on the Lecture Hall Title.

We doubt whether it is worth while having a Conveyance with regard to these two strips, as the boundaries are clear, and time will cure the matter.

We are, however, in negotiation on the point with the Solicitors acting for the Purchaser of Dewes House, who have also raised a query as to the matter.

Yours faithfully Rutter Rutter

Letter dated 30th December 1927

from Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Wincanton to Rutter & Rutter, Solicitors, Shaftesbury

Mere Lecture Hall Trust

We thank you for your letter of the 28th instant and enclosed Cheque for £300 for which please accept this letter as our receipt (Three hundred pounds).

We will send you a copy of the Minute in the course of a few days.

We should like to hold the Trust Deed and the Conveyance for the moment as they may be required in connection with a Conveyancing matter now in negotiation as regards the adjoining premises of Dewes House

Yours faithfully Rutter Rutter

#### **OPC Note:**

The Lecture Hall was built in the 1860s by J F Rutter, solicitor and Quaker, of Dewes House. It incorporated a Friends' Meeting House built in 1863. The Lecture Hall was used for meetings of the Mere Temperance Society, the Band of Hope, concerts in aid of the British School, Methodist rallies and Liberal Party meetings. No alcohol was permitted to be consumed on the premises. The custom of reading a passage of scripture preceding meetings continued for a time after J F Rutter died in 1899.

In 1924, a Lecture Hall Trust was founded and endowed by Dr Rutter to promote the welfare of Mere people 'along lines not inconsistent with Nonconformist Christianity, Temperance or similar objects'. In 1928, a Small Lecture Hall was added to the building, and was used for many years as a Friends' Meeting House. The Lecture Hall was refurbished in 2008 and continues to be well used for a variety of purposes, including meetings, films, plays and charity sales. The 'no alcohol' rule remains.

**Source:** [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)