

Oaksey

Village war memorial dedication in new hall

A War memorial which has been built in the £300,000 village hall in Oaksey, will be officially dedicated at a special ceremony on Remembrance Day.

The stone memorial, crafted in stone, has been set up in the committee room of the hall, which was opened in September last year by Prince Charles.

It will be dedicated by Canon Andrew Bowden, from Coates, on November 11 following the annual Remembrance Day parade through the village and the service at All Saints Church.

The memorial is engraved with the words: "With grateful thanks to all those of the parish of Oaksey who served their country."

Olivia Taylor, secretary of the village hall committee, said the words paid respect to servicemen killed in conflicts including the First and Second World Wars, and other arenas of war, as well as all villagers who served their country during times of war.

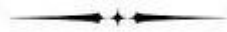
In the old village hall, in The Street, opened in the 1920s, a memorial room called The Rest was a memorial to those who died in the First World War. The hall was pulled down in 1999.

Mrs Taylor said planners took a memorial into consideration when they agreed plans for the new hall, designed by Oaksey architect Edward Seymour.

"It was very much part of the design of the hall, to have a room that would carry on as a memorial," said Mrs Taylor. "It was quite important for the villagers that such a room was incorporated for the villagers."

She said it was felt more appropriate to have the dedication on November 11 than when Prince Charles visited.

(*York Press* - Thursday 18th October 2001)



Oaksey (The Rest)

After the Great War some villages sought to commemorate their fallen neighbours by dedicating a village hall or parish rooms in their memory. In the Cotswold village of Oaksey in Wiltshire the village hall had a small meeting room within it which was dedicated as a war memorial – it was called The Rest. In 1999 the village hall was demolished but when the new hall was built it included a room called The New Rest. A piece of locally carved stone is set in the wall, dedicated to those of the parish who have served their country.

In August 2000 War Memorials Trust gave a grant of £200.00 towards this new memorial stone.

The new village hall was opened by the Prince of Wales on 6th September 2000, and the new memorial stone dedicated on 11th November 2001 when Oaksey hosted the annual British Legion parade.

The inscription on the memorial stone reads:

With grateful recognition to all those from the parish of Oaksey who have served their country.



(War Memorials Trust)



The Village Hall

Description The opening of Oaksey's Millennium Village Hall by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales took place on 6th September 2000. This was the culmination of three years fundraising efforts. Level access is provided throughout the building for those with mobility problems and other disabilities. This includes a separate toilet that also provides nappy changing facilities and a potty for toddlers. The gents and ladies toilets are also situated at the rear of the building leading from the rear corridor to the side door of the hall.

Room 1 Designed by local architect, Ed Seymour, it consists of a large hall – The John Assheton Hall (48-ft x 28-ft), with a stage area (14-ft x 28-ft) both with a fine hardwood strip floor. The large French windows to the south open onto a terraced area at the rear of the building with splendid views of the surrounding countryside. There are ventilation doors at either end of the hall, velux windows in the roof, overhead direct heating and background heating provided by radiators. Wall lights situated around the hall, and overhead lights provide illumination with a special strip of lights over the stage which can be dimmed. Floor length green fireproof curtains are fixed at the stage and also at the southern end of the hall. There are 20 tables (6-ft long x 2.6-ft wide) stored on the stage together with 120 plastic stacking chairs. In addition, seven card tables are available for occasional use. The hall is fitted with a public address system, loudspeakers and a microphone, together with a CD player.

A large serving hatch from the kitchen is situated opposite the doors to The John Assheton Hall.

Capacity

Room 2 The Rest – so called because it is dedicated as a war memorial - is a smaller meeting room (21-ft x 15-ft) and can be used independently of the main hall, or as part of the package. It is carpeted and has a four quarter door which can be used as a servery to the kitchen. Two boardroom style tables and comfortable padded seats are provided. The French windows face eastwards across the Playing Field to the school and church beyond. They open inward so that a marquee can be fixed easily to the outside. The Rest can also be used as a Green Room as access to the stage is reached through a Stage Door opposite the door to The Rest. Within two full length cupboards is over 100 sets of crockery ranging from tea cups and saucers to dinner plates and dessert dishes, and milk jugs and small bowls to large platters. All in the same attractive design. In addition there are glass bowls available for use.

(Wiltshire Village Halls Association)

