

A note on the history of Lympstone Village Hall 1930 - 2020

The 15 years after the First World War was a great era for building community halls. Many were built as memorial halls, and there was a marked upturn in formal community activity, including reading rooms, billiards and meetings of the Womens Institute. Lympstone lacked any larger meeting place and in the years lading up to 1930 steps were taken to address this. In September 1930 the village hall charity was created, with 'the local great and good' much in evidence with funding and becoming first trustees. Land close to the village school was funded and further funding put together so that building was started in 1933. What are now the main hall, stage and committee room (then billiard room) formed the main building with a rudimentary lean-to kitchen much smaller than the current one. The hall was opened to considerable acclaim and with local press coverage in September 1933.

The hall struggled to pay its way until the 1960s, needing subsidy from the parish council and repeated grants. Small extensions were added including a bigger kitchen, bar and what was then called the committee room (now a store). In the 1980s the function room and current toilets were added and in 2002 the extra block at the north end was built as football changing rooms (for a full size pitch on Candys Field which never happened).

From 2009 a major multi-year programme of modernisation was undertaken at a total cost of £340,000, with around £100,000 raised by villagers and a fund raising committee. This saw new lighting throughout, refurbishment of the bar, kitchen and toliets. Provision of more storage, a new roof, solar panels and most recently air conditioning.

For almost 90 years the hall's trustees worked within the original constitution written in 1930. The reform of charity law in 2011 gave the opportunity to modernise the governance of the hall as well as its facilities, and this culminated in the creation of the CIO in 2020.

[1933 press item – this is the first part of a much longer article](#)

VILLAGE HALL OPENED BY LADY CLINTON

THE FRUITS OF UNITED EFFORT

Erected at a cost of £2,000, Lympstone's model village hall was opened in the presence of a large gathering of villagers, visitors and friends, on Wednesday afternoon.

The hall represents the fruits of united effort on the part of nearly all branches of Lympstone's social activity. Commenced in 1930, the fund was slowly augmented by socials, whist drives, entertainments, and the generosity of friends, until, assisted by the National Council of Social Services, the hall was able to be opened absolutely free of debt.

An obvious need in the village, the building will undoubtedly prove instrumental in promoting social life to an extent impracticable under former conditions, and undoubtedly last Wednesday will remain a memorable day in the annals of the village of Lympstone.

