

# THE VILLAGE HALL

Chipping Village Hall has been a feature of village life for as long as most people can remember. In March, 1921, the Oddfellows decided to build a Memorial Hall to all who served in the Great War. Brothers Seed and Leece went, in April, to view a building in Clitheroe which they bought for £276. Employees of H.J.Berry dismantled the wooden building, and, in early summer, Tweedy and Co. carted it from Clitheroe for £43.14s.1d. The hall was to be constructed on part of the Club Meadow owned by the Oddfellows who were to receive rents and profits for the benefit of their Queen Adelaide lodge.

At the beginning of August 1921, two men were employed on excavating for the new building at the rate of 1s.8d. per hour. However, by early September, their pay had dropped to 1s.6d. per hour as they laboured on the building of the hall. Sods from the Club Meadow were disposed of to whoever would give most for them. A Mr. Parks charged £91.10s.6d for supplying 5150 bricks and building the foundations for the club room.

Joiners from H.J.Berry and Sons, put up the building, and by the end of October, it was nearing completion. The Oddfellows prepared to transfer the business of the Lodge to the new building, on Club Lane to be known as the Oddfellows Hall. Men were employed at 1s. per hour to tar the building and paint the side in red oxide, and the committee were empowered to buy 6 or 7 petrol vapour lamps to light up the hall. 150 chairs @ 6s. were ordered, and the purchase of a piano was sanctioned if one could be procured reasonably.

The Oddfellows were soon organising the grand opening ceremony to be held on 3rd December, 1921 at 3p.m., as this was the earliest date that the Grand Master of the Order, Bro. Josiah Coulthurst could attend. Bro. H. Marsden had to supply sufficient rails to fence off the ground from the remaining meadow, while Bros. J. Meren and J. Slater were to provide music for dancing in the evening. Ladies were enlisted to help provide tea at the afternoon opening and assist in the evening as far as possible - they were Miss R. Leece, Mrs Seed, Mrs Berry, Mrs Timbrell, Mrs Bleasdale, Mrs Hoyle, Mrs or Miss Marsden and Mrs Kenyon.

Thus, on Saturday 3rd December, 1921, there was a large gathering of local public men and leading members of the Lodge, including the above named Grand Master, to see the unveiling of the Chipping roll of honour to members of Chipping Queen Adelaide Lodge of Oddfellows who served during the war. Bro. Samuel Turner (Bury), an ex-serviceman, performed the ceremony, and, in a brief speech, said that the greatest memorial the nation could put forward was the care of the widows and orphans of those who had died for their country. Major J.J. Berkeley suggested a similar roll of honour, also in the Memorial Hall, for the other men who went from the village to fight, and the Chairman, Dr. Birtwell, assured him that this project should have attention. R. Leece accepted the trusteeship of the memorial on behalf of the Lodge. The scroll was