

In 1955, Lancashire County Council agreed with the village committee to lease the hall on a regular basis for a baby welfare clinic. At this time money was being raised by the committee for an extension to the Village Hall. This greatly increased the area of the hall and the new extension was built and opened in 1956. The hall is a Memorial Hall, and, during the enlargement, a plaque was put up in grateful tribute to all those from Chipping and district who served their country during the wars of 1914-18, 1939-45.

The Christmas Fair, dance and whist and domino drive, at the beginning of December, 1956, was the first event to be held in the extended Village Hall, and £220 was raised for the extension fund.

The chairman, W. Woods, introduced Mrs Baverstock of 'Thornley', Chipping Rd, (now Church Raikes) Chipping, who opened the fair. Miss Jacqueline Hoyle presented a spray of flowers to Mrs Baverstock. The stall realising the most money - £63 - was run by a group from Leagram with Little Bowland, and they received particular thanks from the chairman. No grants were available then and all money had to be raised by village effort. People were asked for subscriptions by the Village Hall committee, but when this form of fund raising lapsed, more stalls were required. However, not all events were to support the Village Hall, and a dance, whist and domino drive, held at Christmas 1956, raised £20 for St. Dunstan's.

The Village Hall was a popular venue for dances with usually at least one a week until the early 1970s. The Young Farmers and other organisations held their annual parties there, and when the parish room closed it became the weekly meeting place for Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts. Pre-school groups, the W.I. and Chipping Amateur Dramatic Society still meet there. The Village Hall hosts the annual Horticultural Show, and it is frequently hired by caravan clubs and for family parties and weddings. Summer clubs are held there, and it is Chipping's polling station. As the popularity of whist and domino drives waned, bingo took over as the regular weekly entertainment and fund raising activity. St. Mary's Church hold frequent bingo evenings and most organisations in Chipping hold a food bingo at some time in the year. Other villages such as Dunsop Bridge have used the hall for fund raising and social events. A bar was installed in the early 1990s, and the latest activity to take place in the Village Hall is line dancing. Thus the Village Hall continues to play a significant part in village life just as it has done for the last 76 years.

Written and researched by Alice Whitwell from:-

Photocopied deeds of Chipping Memorial Hall. (Chipping Local History Society library)

Oddfellows' Minute Books - Chipping Queen Adelaide Lodge. (Lancs. Record Office, DDX 8142/2, DDX 8142/3)

Preston Guardian, 10 December 1921. Clitheroe Advertiser & Times, 14 December & 28 December, 1956.

CANDLE LIT BALL



Chipping Farmers' Ball on Wednesday night was unique. Illumination was provided by candles. The ball got going nicely in the Oddfellows Hall when - without warning the electric lights went out.

An oil lamp was borrowed from a nearby public house, but still there was no glimmer in the electric bulbs. So the next best thing was done. A shopkeeper was knocked up and his supply of candles purchased. Soon there was light again, even if only a dim one, and for more than four hours dancers waltzed and "foxtrotted" by candle; candles also provided the illumination in the nearby school for the Whist Drive. When the Ball finished at 2am the electric current was still off.

St Wilfrid's Band from Longridge was in attendance.

From the Preston Guardian - Saturday January 27th 1940.