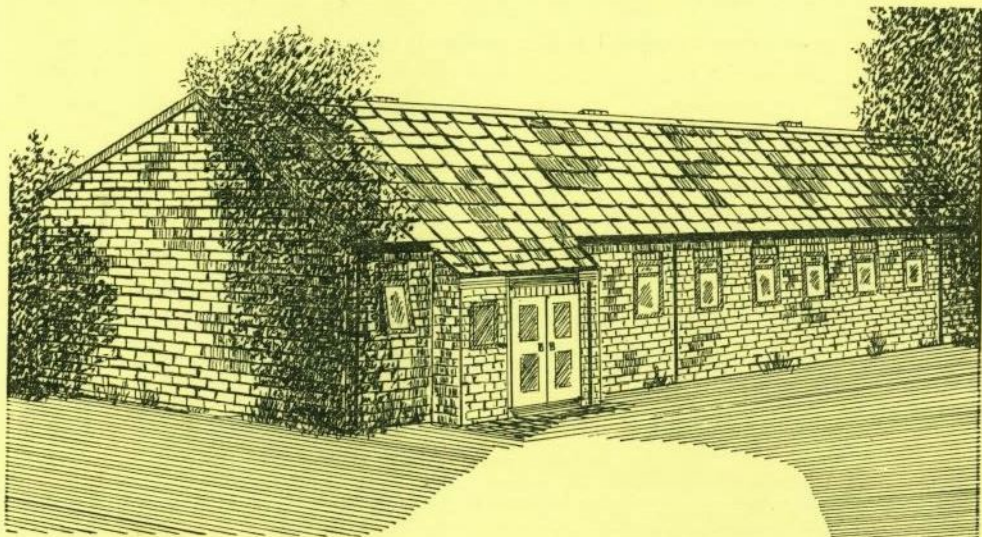


Reepham & Cherry Willingham
VILLAGE HALL



J.R. BALCH

OFFICIAL OPENING

SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER 1983

2.30 pm

by

Cllr. V.G. HUDSON F.I.P.H.E.

Chairman Community Council of Lincolnshire

Before the last war a committee representing various organisations in Reepham decided that the Reading Room in High Street was too small and dilapidated to offer adequate facilities for local functions. Accordingly they agreed that a hall should be built and eventually a site was bought on Hawthorn Road.

A building of the semi-prefabricated type was hired from the then National Council of Social Service and officially opened on April 15th 1950. It was subsequently purchased, with considerable financial assistance from Reepham Parish Council, over the period 1965-1969.

With the passage of time and in some measure due to the nature of its construction the building began to deteriorate and Reepham Village Hall Committee (as it then was) made commendable efforts to keep it wind and weatherproof. Despite the assiduous use of its limited financial resources these were only sufficient to cover maintenance of a cosmetic nature and the progressive deterioration of the fabric became increasingly apparent. Drastic action was called for and so professional advice was sought.

This made it clear that a considerable sum had to be spent to make the hall serviceable and would only provide short term protection, further expense being involved after a few more years had elapsed.

The Committee therefore asked itself if it would not be cheaper in the long run to replace the existing building by a new one of a permanent nature. If such a decision were reached a large sum of money would be required. How could it be raised?

Help and co-operation from nearby Cherry Willingham seemed to offer a possible solution. Accordingly this was sought and proffered with a result that in mid-1980 a joint Reepham and Cherry Willingham Village Hall Committee came into being.

Their first action was to carry out a survey in both villages to see if the residents thereof, in the majority, favoured the idea of a new hall, which proved to be the case. Thus supported, the Committee took the decision to go ahead.

Grants would obviously be required to assist with the financing of the project but to qualify one third of the grant ceiling had to be raised locally and by tremendous effort and with boundless enthusiasm the sum needed was raised.

Despite these efforts on their part the Committee willingly acknowledge that their objective could not have been achieved without the help of others. They gratefully appreciate the unstinting support by way of loans, subscriptions and participation in their fund raising activities received from the residents and the friends of both villages. They are no less appreciative of the direct financial aid received from the two Parish Councils, from Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council. To all of these, and anyone else they may have unwittingly omitted to mention, the Committee offer their sincere thanks.

If evidence is needed of what has been achieved in the short space of three years, it is perhaps apt to recall the tribute paid to Sir Christopher Wren on the inscription in his masterpiece, St. Paul's Cathedral,

'If a monument is needed, look around you.'

PROGRAMME

- 2.30 pm **OPENING CEREMONY**
followed by **RECEPTION**
- 8.00 pm **GRAND OPENING EVENT**
LIVE CABARET
with
The SPANGLES
Music in Harmony
also starring
JON DAVID
Entertainer
-

**REEPHAM AND CHERRY WILLINGHAM
VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1983**

Mesdames :

P. A. Beattie	I. M. Petch
K. Crooks	J. M. Rollo
B. E. Douglas	S. M. Smith
P. W. Gamble	V. M. Smith
L. M. Hackney	V. E. J. Stonehouse
M. E. Harvey	J. A. Ward
R. A. Henderson	S. Wass
M. F. Mason	

Misses : J. S. Fisk M. A. Pearce

Messrs :

G. A. Bartley	T. G. Lincoln	Hon. Secretary
F. J. A. Beattie	M. G. McCullagh	
G. Brammer	R. Neslen	
E. Brocklesby	D. Perkins	
E. Crooks	H. Sleightholme	Vice
E. A. Elvidge	Chairman and Treasurer	
L. R. Goodwin	L. N. Staples	Chairman
Revd. A. G. D. Hayday	C. S. Twigg	
	J. R. Wass	
Hon. Auditor	P. J. Garton	

Overall Length of Hall	26.5 m.
Overall Width of Hall	10.33 m.
Area of Main Hall	191 sq. m.

Designed by D. Perkins B.Sc.(Hons), C.Eng., M.I.C.E.
Built by R. & S.L. North (Builders) Ltd. Welton

