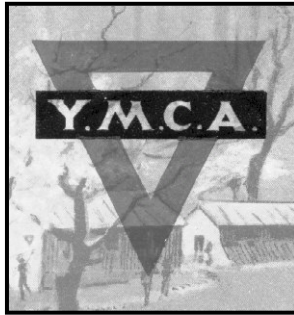


Gone but not Forgotten

The Romance of the Red Triangle

Another local building, which has gone leaving no photographic evidence, is the Red Triangle Club (RTC), which stood on the opposite side of the Ascott Road to the Shipton Gasworks. It was so called as the triangle formed part of the badge of the Young Men's Christian



Association (YMCA). Mr Harry Mawle of Court Farm gave the site for the Shipton RTC. His eldest daughter, Betty, Miss Thomson of Shipton Court and Dr. E. Roe, performed the opening ceremonies on 12th February 1923.

Fun and Games

The Club provided a site for many village clubs and facilities. At one stage Shipton ran a team in the Witney & District Billiards League. Regular whist drives were held to raise money for the club's maintenance, children's parties, the UN and the Radcliffe and Nuffield hospitals. The club ran its own monthly lectures, was a venue for magic lantern shows for the Rechabites and the Wychwood Brotherhood and for rehearsals and concerts by the Wychwood Male Voice Choir.

War Effort

When evacuated children arrived in September 1939, Shipton School briefly took over the daytime use of the RTC. Milton and District Welfare used the RTC for its monthly clinics and several parties when their schoolroom was used by evacuee children. Dr. Scott and the

Rev'd. Wood of Charlbury entertained evacuee and local children with cinema shows on Saturday and holiday mornings.

Rooks for Supper

In 1940 Dr. Scott set up a canteen to provide lunches for evacuated mothers and children and evening meals

for visiting military. The canteen was run by volunteers, except for the paid cooks who prepared the meals, using local produce: rabbits, rooks, eggs, fruit and vegetables.

The club was used for fund-raising events of its own and was also home for the Wychwoods Keep Fit Club, the Girl Guides and for the music and dance performances by Miss Miriam Benjamin and her pupils. The Wychwood Horticultural Society sweated away with its annual summer shows inside and on the adjacent field. Later Mary Barnes (nee Bond) also noted the heat problem, when, at her wedding reception all the jellies melted.

Post War Decline

After the war the club was used for RTC business and as home for the local youth club, young farmers and bowls club. In the 1950's the RTC fell into decline and by the 1960's the club had gone to form part of the Courtlands estate.

John Rawlins

Editor's note - There must be some good tales to tell of the RTC - please share them with us!