

Feedback

Early Memories of the Beaconsfield Hall

The Hall was always well used by the villagers in the 1950s and 60s. Many a happy hour would be spent rumbling through the jumble at the sales that were always popular on a Saturday afternoon. Sometimes you would be lucky and buy a bag for a penny which would have a half-crown in its lining. For a few years a cinema was set-up; I remember *Under the Red Sea* being shown. It was used for important events like the distribution of 'Charity Monies'. The WI met there, the dances and occasional talent shows were always very popular.

An excellent venue to have, like me, your wedding reception as it was a short walk from the Church. **Mrs Phyllis Clarke**

Travelling Concerts Remembered

I found the following paragraphs in my Mother's papers which I thought might be of interest. (Phyllis's mother was the late Mrs Dorothy Brookes)

During the period 1915 to 1925, travelling concert parties came to the village and put on fine evening performances and a children's matinee. I don't know how these people managed to make a living but somehow they did. There were usually eight of them; they booked the village hall for a week and spent the Monday delivering leaflets and putting up bills advertising *East Lynne* and such plays; two nights they did variety. Saturday afternoons were no trouble as they got the children to go on stage and recite or sing for most of the performance. They had to get cheap lodgings in the village. They paid 1/6d (and a complimentary ticket) for bed and

breakfast and had the rest of their food in the hall kitchen.

There was a "posh" concert once a year when the Vicar organised a musical evening in the Hall. There were singers from Oxford, a few dramatic monologues, duets by well known Oxford performers and violin and cello solos. Mother and Dad took my sister and I to this, my brother got in free as he was a programme seller. A similar type of evening was organised to raise funds for the Missionary Society. Funds were always wanted for the starving Indians, earthquake victims, African tribes who were being 'converted', leprosy missions and many other worthy causes.

North Wall Arts Festival, 2nd to 12th July 2008

The North Wall, South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7NN

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