

BUCKERELL'S NEW HALL,

"A TERMENDOUS INFLUENCE FOR GOOD."

OPENED BY MISS K. PEEK.

VOLUNTARY WORK OF PARISHIONERS

Buckerell, a parish not far distant from Honiton, is now in possession of a commodious and well-appointed Village Hall. At many places in East Devon during recent years halls of this description have sprung up, and have become centres of the social life of the communities in which they exist. They have contributed more to the brightening of life in the countryside than, perhaps, and other post war movement.

The hall at Buckerell, which was formally opened on Wednesday evening by Miss Kathleen Peek, of Hembury Fort, is worthy of special notice because of the large amount of voluntary effort contributed by men of the parish towards its construction. Few parishes can boast of such a building at such comparatively small cost.

Mr H. C. Edwards, one of the foremost poineers in the project, and his co-workers are to be heartily congratulated upon the outcome of their labours. They secured a site on advantageous terms; obtained a loan repayable when convenient without interest; enlisted the services of a builder, whose price was extremely nominal; got the haulage of materials for the foundation of the hall done by Mr. Stamp (Weston) free of charge; men of the parish gave their time and labour in the decoration of the interior of the building; and last, but not least, came gifts of pictures and furnishings. The total cost of the hall is about £200.00. It has an exterior covering of steel sheets, and inside it is lined with wood.

THE OPENING.

The village was beflagged in honour of the occasion; school children attended the opening ceremony in fancy dress, and Honiton Town Band, who gave their services, played outside the hall.

Miss Peek was handed a key by Mr. R. Perham, and having unlocked the door at the main entrance she declared the building open.

Addressing the assembly in the hall, Miss Peek said they had met that night on a very

pleasant occasion, and she was very glad to have the opportunity of saying a few words. The hall was, as some of them knew, started in the initiative of Mr. Edwards and some of the men of Buckerell, and she felt sure it would fill a great want in the village. The original aim was to call a public meeting at an early date to lay the matter before the parishioners of Buckerell and decide how the building should be run and maintained in future. It was a splendid thing to feel that as the Men's Club was the first object, Mr. Edwards and his helpers were all keenly interested in raising the necessary money to pay back the loan which had enabled the hall to be erected so quickly. She was sure that a hall of that sort, if it was run and supported by the whole parish, could be a tremendous influence for good, as well as providing a most delightful place for recreation. She had much pleasure in declaring the hall open and wished it every possible success.

Mr. C. W. Wood also congratulated the villagers upon having secured such a well equipped and much-needed hall.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES ACKNOWLEDGED.

Mr H. C. Edwards, who has laboured untiringly in connection with the Village Hall scheme, observed that he could hardly express his feelings in words at witnessing the completion of the building. He was delighted to know that they had now a hall in Buckerell which they could call their own. (Applause.) It was a place where the working men of the parish, who had laboured hard with the building, could have an evening's enjoyment after a hard day's toil. (Applause.) For the last six weeks he had been with the men who had done their bit, and he could say they were a splendid body of men. They were grateful of Miss Peek and Mr. Wood for their good wishes and to Mr. Stamp (Weston) for kindly hauling numerous loads of materials free of charge for the foundations of the hall. That was voluntary labour. (Hear, hear.) When he (the speaker) spoke to Mr. Stamp as to what was proposed to be done for the working men of Buckerell the latter at once replied: "I am with you." (Applause.) They had received valuable assistance, too from Mr. Stamp's foreman (Mr. R. Crabb). Sincere thanks were also due to those who gave permission for the hall to be erected on such a convenient site; to Mrs. Harris for her generous gifts of pictures, tables, chairs, &c.; to the artistes who had come to entertain them: and to

the Honiton Town Band. Here, again, in most instances, there was voluntary labour. (Applause.) The builder (Mr. G. Blay, of Honiton) had erected the hall at the minimum of expenditure; in fact, every penny spent on labour had been well earned. Concluding, Mr. Edwards alluded to the crowded attendance, and expressed the hope that they would have a real good time on the occasion of the opening of Buckerell Village Hall. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Meer (Honiton), on behalf of the builder, said he was sure that the hall would be a distinct advantage to Buckerell. He thanked Mr. Edwards for the valued help he had given in the planning and erection of the building.

The Rector (the Rev. E. Ravenscroft), in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Peek for performing the opening ceremony, said to-day most villages possessed a hall, and therefore it was satisfactory to find that Buckerell had succeeded in acquiring such a nice building as Miss Peek had opened that evening. (Applause.) - The vote was heartily accorded, and Miss Peek briefly replied.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a variety entertainment and a dance, both of which were much enjoyed.

DEVON AND EXETER GAZETTE (?) – C. 1934