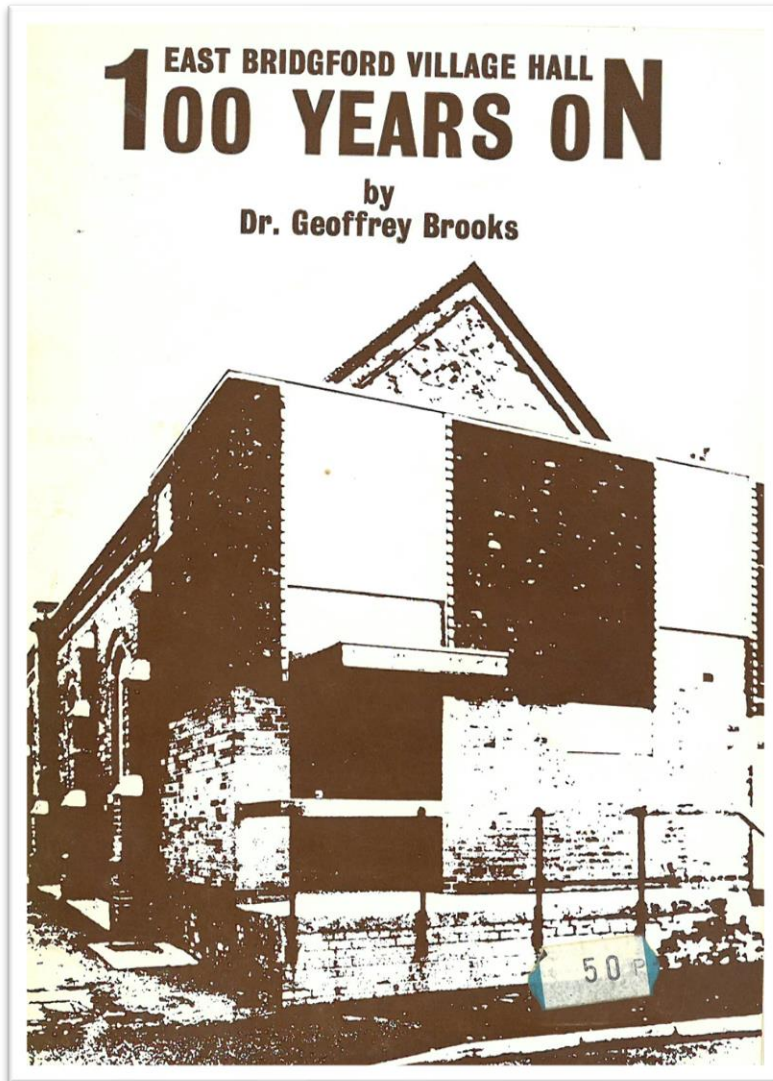


# *East Bridgford Village Hall*

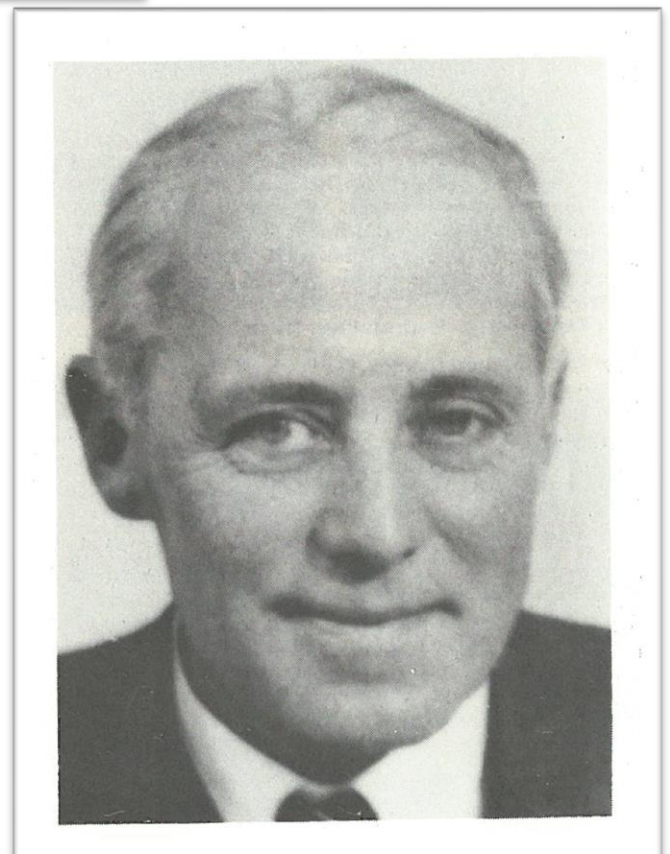


Following history courtesy of this book published by Dr Brooks. Kindly lent by Mr Meylan.

Dr. Geoffrey O. Brooks, 34 Cross Lane.

President of the Village Hall Management Committee and author of this history.

He has served on the Committee since it was first formed in 1936.



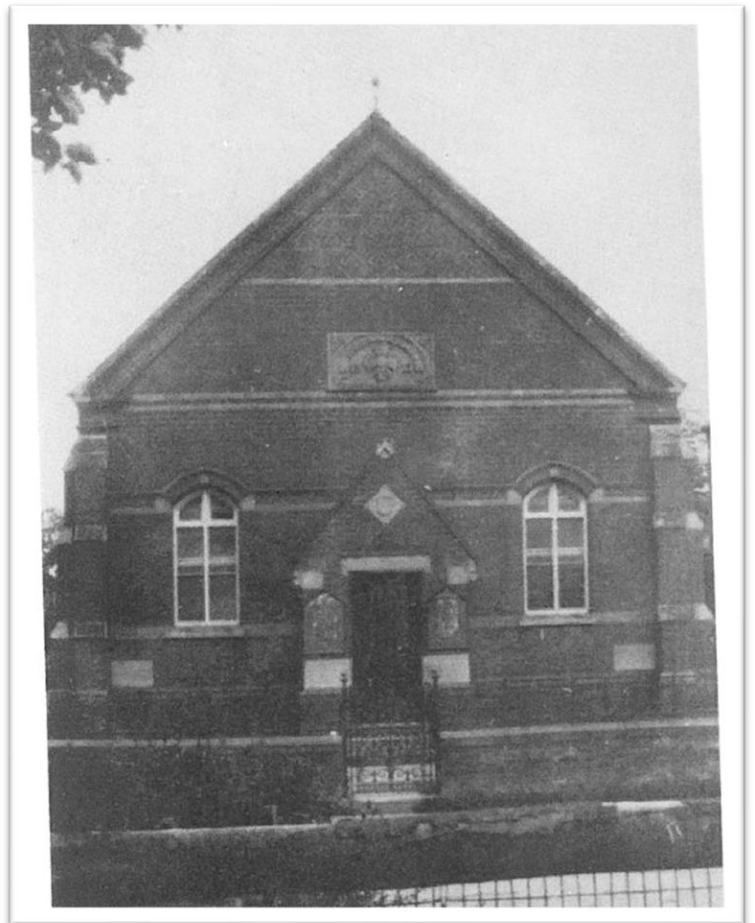
# East Bridgford Village Hall

East Bridgford has been fortunate to possess a Village Hall for many years. Originally known as the Temperance Hall it has played an active part in the social life of the village.

In the Rev. Du Bouley Hill history of East Bridgford it states that the principles of non-conformity were active in the county during the past century. Doubtless as a result of this in East Bridgford there were a few young men known locally as the good templars who formed a temperance league connected with the 'Band of Hope'. They used to hold meetings in a shed or chapel in Browns Lane. Dissatisfied with these premises (long since demolished) these good Templars decided to erect a more commodious hall, large enough to accommodate village gatherings and to be known as The Temperance Hall.

## 1803

The present site was obtained from a Mr Lockwood who came to live in Burnham House in 1803 and farmed land surrounding it. It is thought that the present site was bought by means of a mortgage of £300 raised by Mr. Sharpe, the local rate collector. The hall was built entirely by voluntary labour. Materials were bought with money raised by the 'Good Templars'. Anyone who raised or donated £50 could have their name inscribed on one of the Hall Corners stones. Two of these names are still visible... Chettle and Sharpe. Records state the cost of the completed hall (1883) was £450.



## 1883

The hall was completed and ready for use in 1883. Heating was provided by a stove in the centre of the floor and it was lit by oil lamps. A very different hall from what we have today.

## 1910

In 1910 or thereabouts, a boiler was installed to provide central heating and when public electricity came to the village, electric light was installed.

# East Bridgford Village Hall

There were two trustees – Mr. Sharpe himself and Mrs. Straw (Mr. E. Bullers grandmother)

## 1936

In 1936 when Mr. Sharpe became ill and too old to manage the affairs of the hall, the village decided to buy it and a committee of management was formed. With the hall there was a debt of £150, a number of structural repairs were urgently needed and the prospect of a war was imminent.

Mr. Mason kindly resolved the first difficulty by paying the debt with an interest free loan. A house to house collection in the village raised £105 and enabled the committee to carry out repairs including new gates and some damp proofing on the east wall.

3 trustees were also appointed, one of whom should be the Parish Council. Mr. Shaw of Bingham was obtained as their architect. The Parish Council agreed to be a trustee. The committee continued to make various money raising efforts in 1937-38. The first of a long series of Christmas Markets was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1937. This made £47.9.7 and with it the outstanding portion of Mr. Mason's loan was repaid.

## 1940

A contract was then made with Messrs. W.

and F.J.Lodder to carry out the necessary improvements for a sum of £503 starting in April 1940, to be completed in September that year. These improvements were to consist of a new front entrance with steps outside, a cloakroom at the front end of the hall and enlargements at the rear end with kitchen and a cloakroom above.



*Behind the parade you can see the hall after the 1940 extension.*

# East Bridgford Village Hall

During the war years when blackouts were the rule, hall lettings were not always frequent nor profitable. Dances were always popular and Ministry of Information films were usually well attended.

## 1944

When the new management committee took over in April 1944, the hall was clear of debt with a balance in hand of £29. Between April and November 1944, 16 dances were held making a profit of nearly £40. The secretary, Mrs Boyce, managed to keep things going during the difficult war years.

## 1945

The hall was badly in need of redecorating as well as other renovations and improvements. It had been decided by the committee that a new floor was one of the first priorities. There was much fund raising activity in the latter half of 1945 by means of dances and concerts. There was a balance of over £100. In addition, there was a welcome donation of £18 from the Drama Group for the purchase of chairs. This provided the hall with 31 folding chairs.

## 1947

In 1947 the Band of Hope was disbanded and their residual funds divided between the village hall and boys brigade, each having £22 each. By the end of 1948 the committee were in a position to ask architect, Mr Dudding, for advice on what form the floor should take. It was decided to use Siamese Yag and an estimate of £268 was accepted from Messrs. Hewetsons, floor specialists from Hull. The laying of the new floor was completed in September 1949. Further improvements carried out at the same time to the front entrance were new front doors with steps to the pavement with hand rails.

## 1951

Mrs Ellis took over as secretary May 15<sup>th</sup> 1951. She organised various activities. Demonstration dance raised nearly £10, a whist drive raised £25. The committee then invited all the elderly parishioners to tea and entertainment. This was equally successful thanks mainly to Rev. G.R.D. McLean who presided in his usual vivacious style. The committee also managed to paper and paint the committee room and stairs with their own hands, and made further improvements with the provision of a free standing stove at a cost of £24.

# East Bridgford Village Hall

## 1952

At the AGM, Dr. G.O. Brooks was elected president and Rector Rev. G.R.D. McLean chairman. Dancing classes and film shows provided income. A minute of gratitude was passed with acclamation for the splendid work done by Mr Wales as treasurer.

## 1954 / 55

A new gas boiler was installed and extra radiators.

A severe frost caused burst pipes and flooding in the boiler house. Mrs Clarke Smith resigned as caretaker. Mr and Mrs Paling offered to do the

duties until Mr and Mrs Bach were appointed. They were paid a fixed £45 a year.

Successful grants enabled improved lighting, new chairs and card tables. New stage curtains and pelmets were fitted and kitchen cupboards. The hall itself was not self-supporting and the committee was constantly faced with fund raising. Main source of funds came from the Rural Community Council's film shows.

## 1956

During the period 1956 there was only one incident to cause alarm in the committee. This was the threat to raise the rates from £8 to £52 a year. Fortunately, an appeal was successful at least to delay the increase for a few years.

## 1957

After several years of hard work saving the committee were able to redecorate the main hall at a cost of £138-8-0. 2 more radiators were installed.

## 1959

In the secretary's report for 1959, mention was made of the very high standard maintained by the caretakers, Mr and Mrs Widdison.

## 1962

Mr David Meylen reported that thanks to the hard work of the committee the hall was invaluable for a wide range of village activities and its continued use and support assured.

# East Bridgford Village Hall

## 1963

The Rev. McLean accepted the living of Kegworth. His departure was a loss not only to the village but particularly to the village hall. Before leaving the village, Mrs McLean offered to decorate the front of the stage. She did this by depicting comedy and tragedy – two of the aspects of drama in beautifully painted designs which brightened the interior aspect of the hall.

During the 1960's the hall continued to provide facilities for many village activities. Badminton, drama, dances, dancing classes, film shows, youth club, whist drive and bingo. A tea party for the old people was held in the summer and to help raise money the Christmas Fair was organised each December. In 1967 a new gas boiler was installed with an electric pump. Another hard winter caused burst pipes once again. Mr Dunsmore took over as chairman when Rev. McLean left the village. A professional decorator, he did much voluntary work, touching up to keep the interior of the hall looking nice.

## 1968

Discussions were taking place in the committee about the need for enlargement or radical alterations to the existing hall.

## 1971

Sadly Mr Dunsmore passed away suddenly. The committee were fortunate to persuade Mr Russell to succeed, a prominent Nottingham businessman and Mr Kenneth Finch who had many years of administrative experience in the Electricity Supply business. They both helped to make the decision on the best solution of the redevelopment of the hall. It was decided, existing hall and kitchen would be redecorated and refurbished. Removal of the fixed stage. Central heating improved. An additional store room would have to be built at the far end of the village hall land, at the back of the King Edward Club, in which the stage blocks could be stored when not in use. Mr D Atkin estimated the cost would be £12,000. Help of a grant or loan from the County or Borough Council and Parish council were pursued. Dr G O Brooks, the president, took over from Mr Russell as chair until the AGM.

## 1976 / 77

Later Mr D Hanson took over as Chairman and Mr K Finch continued to act as secretary. Mr James, the honorary architect, said that in the first year (1976) he hoped to have demolished the stage, have portable rostra blocks made at Saxondale Hospital. In the following year (1977) he hoped to complete the remodelling of the kitchen and improve the driveway approach and central heating.

# *East Bridgford Village Hall*

## *1978*

Comfortable chairs bought by committee.

Mr Kenneth Finch Chairman. Mrs Jan Sadler was the first lady to be treasurer. Mrs Jackie Wheeler took over the secretaryship from Mr Finch. Mr Tony Poulter took over the treasuryship and Mrs Sadler took over the exacting job of booking secretary from Mrs Dale Whysall.

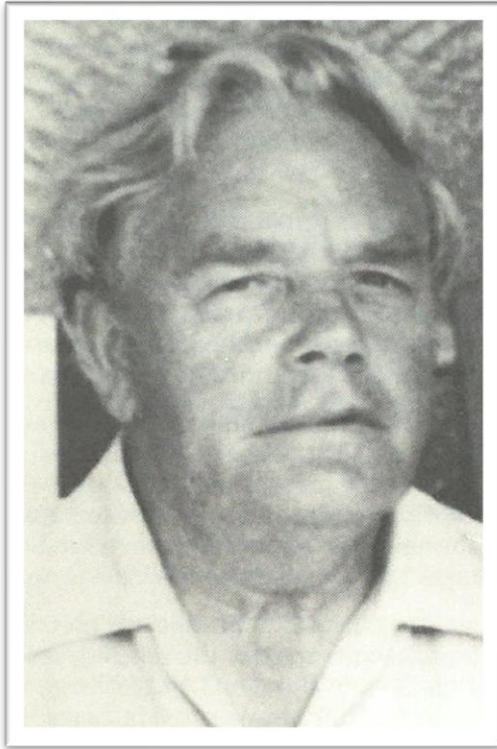
The final sentence of Dr Brooks history book says:

*It is good to think the spirit of voluntary service started by the volunteers who built the original hall has been maintained in East Bridgford and is as strong now as it was then.*

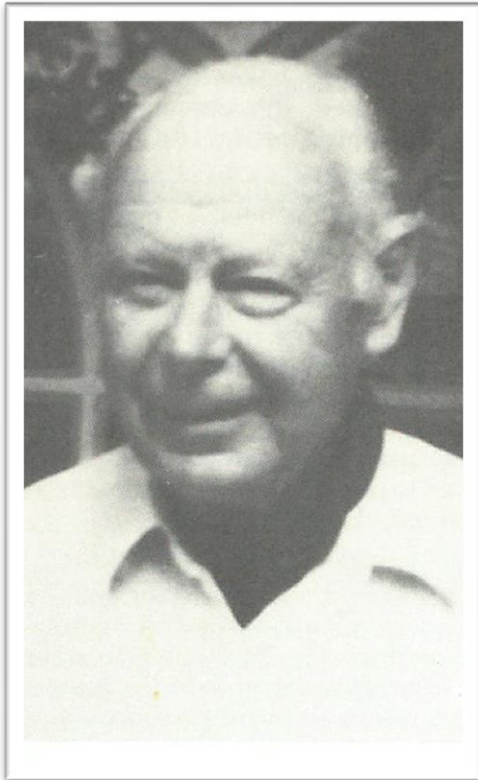
**We do hope there will be sufficient volunteers coming forward to support our hall and it's activities for the enjoyment of future generations.**

***Current 2020 Management Committee***

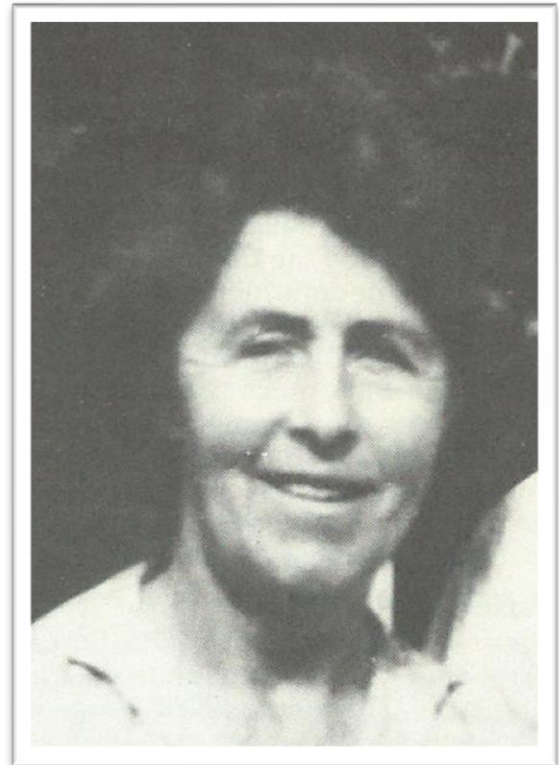
# *East Bridgford Village Hall*



Bill Widdison and Nina Widdison – Cleaners and caretakers



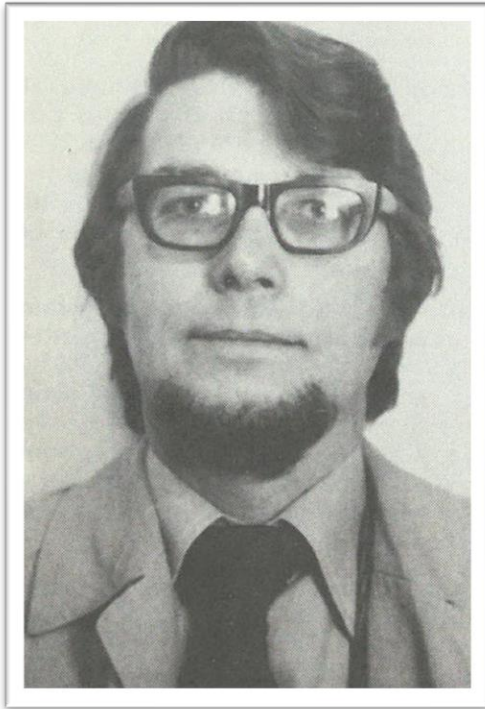
Desmond Hanson of The Hill and Turner  
Fletcher & Essex Estate Agents.



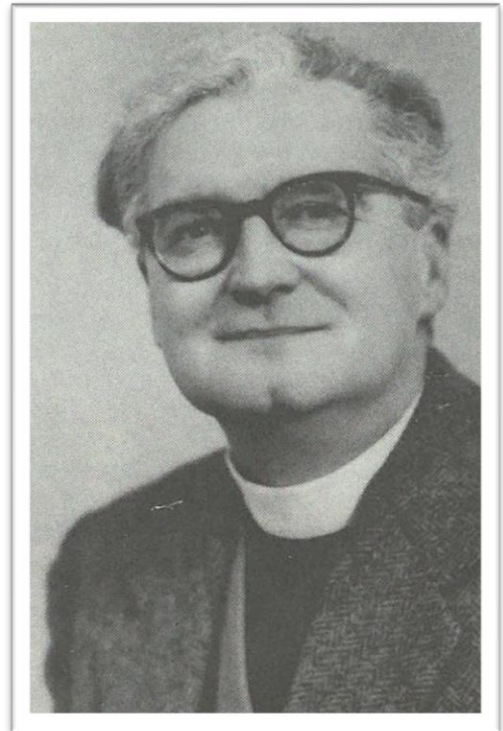
June Hanson former Chairman. Active  
supporter.



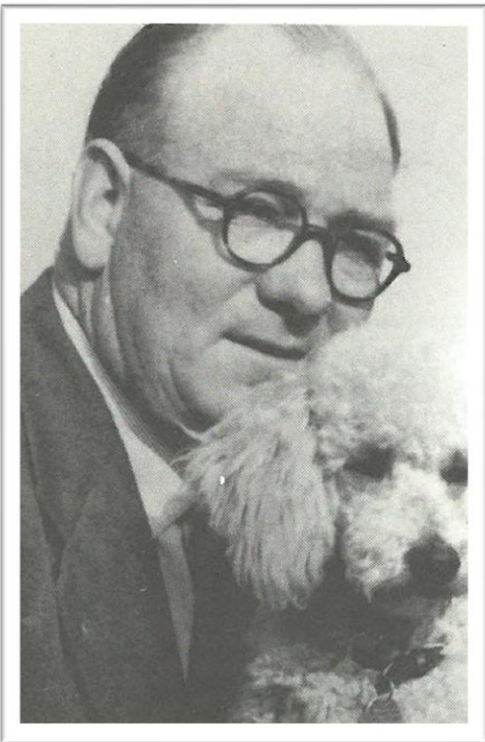
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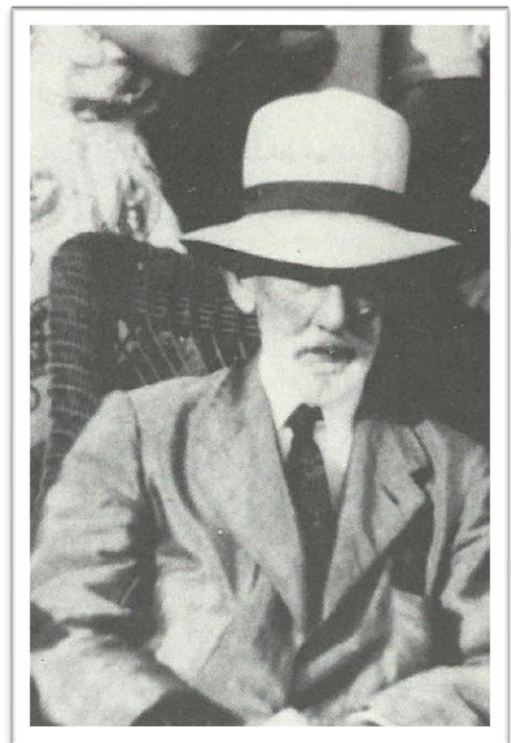
David Atkins, 23 College Street. Architect for the Hall from 1962-63 and active supporter.



Rev. G.R.D McLean – lived at the Rectory until he left the village. Chairman for some years and active supporter.

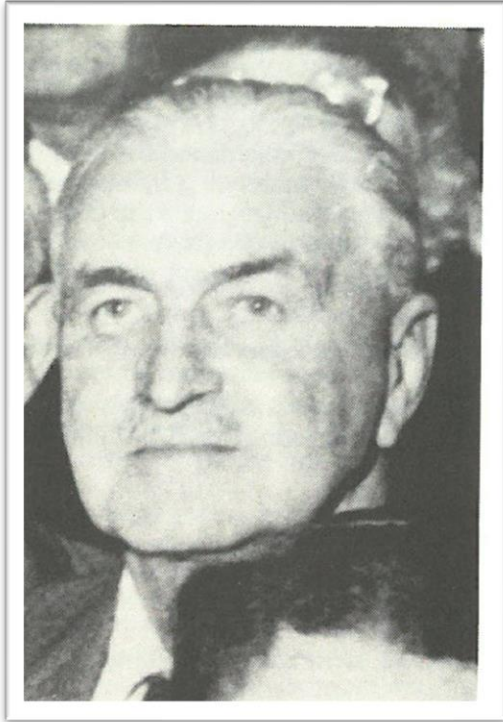


The late Charles Dunsmore, 43 College Street.  
Retired policeman – painter and decorator.  
Chairman for some years. Active supporter and worker.

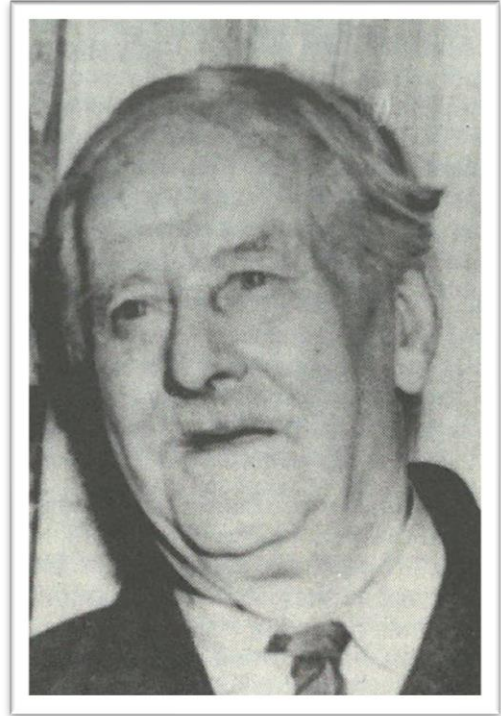


The late W.E Claye lived at the hill. Generous benefactor.

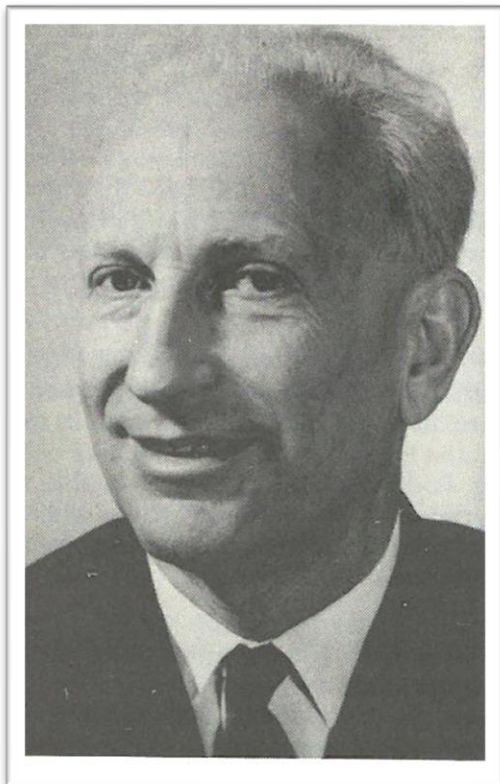
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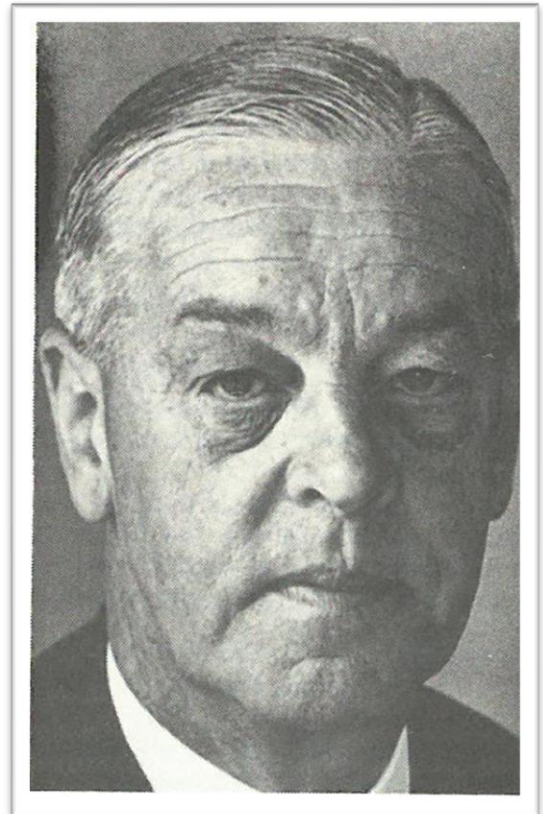
Bill Lodder, Green Roofs, Cherryholt Lane – with brother Frank, completed first alterations and repairs 1937-39 following purchase of the hall by the village.



The late Ted Buller, 71 Main Street. Caretaker and general factotum before village acquired the hall.



Kenneth Finch, 5 Moss Close, one time secretary, inspiring chairman, active supporter and worker.



The late J B Shaw, The Banks, Bingham. Architect, past chairman of Bingham R.D.C – carried out architectural survey of the hall 1937-38 prior to grant from Rural Community Council.



This stone can now be seen as you walk through the main entrance on your right.



This stone unfortunately is behind pipes in the downstairs ladies toilet. To the left of the toilet if you are looking at it. It reads: *This stone was laid by Frederick Sharpe of East Bridgford October 2, 1883.*



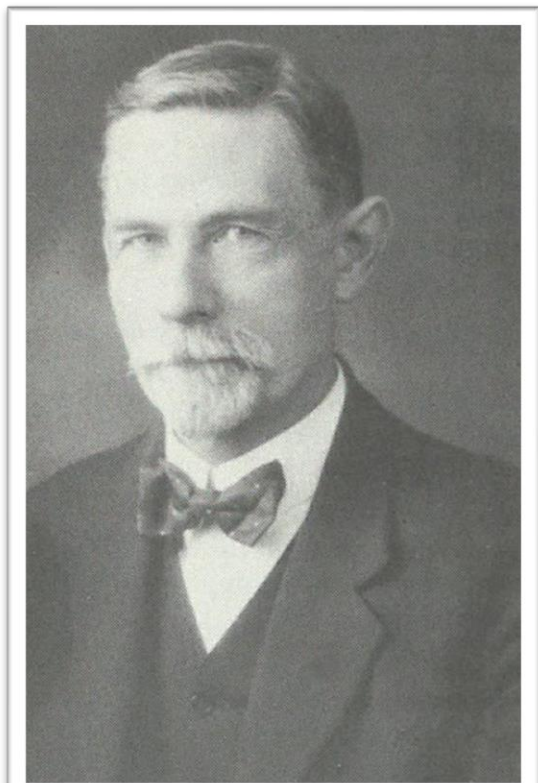
# *East Bridgford Village Hall*



The late Miss Fox lived at The Hall now demolished – renamed Lammas Gardens – Trustee, one time Chairman and active supporter.



The late Mrs Boyce, 69 Main Street. Baker & Confectioner. Secretary for first 15 years after the Village purchased the Hall in 1936.



The late Arthur Mason lived at Leigh Bank in the Main Street. Merchant & generous benefactor.



Mrs Thora Ellis continued the good work of Secretary for 20 years after Miss Boyce died.