

Burghwallis Village Club and Institute

The first planning application to erect a Village Club at Burghwallis was made on 4th November 1911 by Major Anne of Burghwallis Hall and C. Edward Anne, architect. This was approved. Another application was made in 1913, this time by Major Anne with E. Holmes, architect, which was also approved, but no Club appears to have been built at this time.

After the 'Great War' another application was made, on 20th December 1919, for 'temporary' Club premises; this was by 'Burghwallis Working Men's Club' as the owners with Sidney Ellis as Architect. This was at first rejected, but a re-application on 17th January 1920 received approval and an ex-army ('tin') hut was acquired and erected on a site at the junction of Grange Lane and Scorcher Hills Lane, opening as 'Burghwallis Village Club'. An application for an 'addition' was put in almost immediately (14th February 1920), presumably to build on a beer cellar.

The land was leased from the Burghwallis Estate, being the property of Major Anne; from 1931 to 1939 the rental was £8 a year. Electricity was supplied from the Burghwallis Estate Electricity Department, the meter rent being 1/- (one shilling) per month and electricity 6d (6 pence) per unit. The billiard table came from Burghwallis Hall as a gift. The Club ran successfully for years with a many members coming from the mining communities at Skellow and Carcroft; access was just a short walk via the Bridle Path.

Annual events included a Sports Day held on the field behind the Club and cross country running races around the country lanes. Every summer the Club ran an outing to the coast for members and their families for which a small subscription was paid weekly. I remember the numerous buses lined up on Poplar Road at Skellow, nearly filling the street from top to bottom. Seaside venues alternated from year to year, every other year seeming to be Cleethorpes, very popular with the large beach, the amusement Park at the north end and numerous fish and chip shops and pubs. It was also the shortest journey. In alternate years visits were made to Bridlington and Scarborough, although the journey took longer so time at the coast was shorter. A stop at a 'watering hole' was made on the journey there, with long queues forming for refreshments and ablutions. On the way back thirst was slaked on the coach; at that time alcohol was allowed on the buses so bottled beer and soft drinks for the children were carried and distributed during the journey home.



Taken in the heavy snow of 1947 this is the only photo I have showing, in the top left hand corner, the original 'Burghwallis Village Club'. I believe the boy nearest the camera is Ian Allsop

In 1942 the Burghwallis Estate was to be sold off in lots. At a special meeting of the Club Trustees on Oct. 12th it was decided to consult an Estate Agent with a view to purchasing the plot of land on which the Club building stood. At a sale at the Danum on 15th October 1942 the plot of land (no. 46 on the plan) of approximately 3 acres, 2 roods, 2 perches, was bought for £200, leasehold; this included the site of the Club building, with an adjacent field and area of wood. The ground rent was to be sold separately, the sum of £300 being asked. At a further sale held on 19th June 1943 at the Woolpack Hotel the freehold of the site was eventually purchased for £150.

The Club committee proceeded to improve the building, renewing the roof with corrugated asbestos sheeting, building on a porch to the bar entrance, and installing central heating.

In 1951 the committee decided to provide a house for the steward. Building began in 1953 on land at the edge of the wood on Scorcher Hills Lane, being the front corner of the Club's sports field; previously to this the steward had to travel from Robin Hood's Well. Having the Steward's house close improved security for the Club, which had suffered from many break-ins in the past. In 1954 the possibility of building a new (brick) Club was discussed, but apparently funding for this could not be obtained and instead urgent renovations were made to the nearly forty year old hut.



Contestants in Burghwallis Village Club Road Race early 1950's

The Tin Hut was eventually replaced by a brick building in 1965, built on the field behind the hut which previously had been used for Sports Days. Revenue from this field had been achieved by selling the hay to a local horse owner. The new Club contained a central bar which served the games room, snug and concert room. A Steward's house was attached.

Funding for building the new Club was achieved by selling land that the Tin Hut had stood on as building plots, and eventually the Steward's House.

The new building was popular and the Club flourished, with the Games Room busy most nights, a weekly quiz in the Snug, and Saturday dancing and Sunday entertainment filling the Concert Room. However by the late 1980s membership was falling and the Club began getting into debt. Various attempts were made to keep it going, but eventually it had to close.

In 1995 the premises were bought by Mr and Mrs J. Simms, previously of 'The Anne Arms' at Sutton. They ran the building as a public house, 'The Burghwallis', with meals being served lunchtime and evenings. They made extensive alterations to the property but managed to keep the Games room open throughout these for the benefit of regular customers. The concert Room was refurbished, kitchens modernised, and the snug and entrance hall opened up and extended into a large dining room by the addition of a sun-lounge. Following the death of Mr. Simms his wife carried on for about three years, but when an offer to buy was received from the Pub People she decided to accept this and retire.

It was run for several years with changing managers and fortunes and eventually sold to a holding company, being leased back to the Pub People on various short term leases. A mid-term lease is now held by the new landlady who is working to rebuild the clientele.