

TUR LANGTON VILLAGE HALL

WILL 2012 BE CRUNCH TIME?

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls of Tur Langton,

After years of talking about it, Merton College have finally drawn up plans for building on the site of our Village Hall.

HOWEVER it is by no means certain that they will get their planning permission.

Harborough District Council has told us that the site is classed as Community Use and IT WILL REMAIN SO AS LONG AS IT IS REQUIRED AS SUCH BY THE COMMUNITY.

It is now up to us to DEMONSTRATE that we are earnest in our DESIRE TO KEEP THE HALL FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

This leaflet is to tell you that representatives of Merton College are coming to show their plans to the Parish Council on TUESDAY MARCH 13th AT 7.30pm.

YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE IS A WILL IN THE VILLAGE TO RETAIN AND IMPROVE THE HALL.

We do not anticipate the need for lots of chanting or singing but there will be placards for you to hold up or you can bring your own if you wish.

It is suggested that villagers assemble in the hall no later than 7.15pm and you will be able to remain in the meeting to hear the discussion between the Parish Councillors and the College. However after the usual opportunity for public questions at the start of the meeting you will then be requested to allow the rest of the meeting to proceed without interruption.

On the reverse of this leaflet you will find some historical notes which may be of interest. A brochure is also available setting out the case for the Village Hall in more detail. Please phone me on 545226 or send an email to c.weston@bankart.co.uk if you would like to see this.

**Hoping to see you on March 13th,
Yours,
Chris Weston**

TUR LANGTON VILLAGE HALL: HISTORICAL NOTES

The land on which the village hall stands was originally part of Spring Farm. The farm had been bought by Mr J W S Watts from a Captain Warner of West Langton Hall in 1912.

The first Village Hall

In 1920 two Army huts were brought from Tugby on farm wagons and Mr Watts allowed these to be sited in the corner of the paddock roughly where the present hall now stands.

The 1936 sale to Merton College

In 1936 when farming was in dire straits Mr Watts sold Spring Farm to Merton College, Oxford.

The bursar, Mr Holland Hibbert, told Mr Watts the huts could remain there to be used as a village hall and he gave the villagers to have every expectation that this situation would continue as long as the village residents wanted it.

This is confirmed in a letter dated 2 Dec 2009 from Mr Watts' daughter, Nora, who still lives adjacent to the site.

The 1956 lease

In 1956 the Parish Council applied for a grant of £200 from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust towards the cost of furniture, equipment and some minor repairs. This grant was agreed subject to formalisation of the village hall's legal status. As part of this process **a lease was drawn up between Merton College and the Parish Council** for 21 years from 1st February 1958 to 31st January 1979 at an annual rent of £1.

The present hall and the 1970 lease

In 1964 first early consideration was given to the possibility of a new purpose-built village hall in view of the deterioration of the first hall's structure.

Fund-raising proceeded in earnest and by 1970 the plans were advanced sufficiently to apply to the Ministry of Education and Science for a grant towards the construction of the present village hall which it was estimated would cost £4,800.

The Ministry agreed to make a grant of £2,150 but they required that the lease be extended beyond its then remaining term of 9 years.

In 1970 Merton College therefore agreed to a new lease on a slightly larger area of land for a period of 40 years from 1st April 1970 to 31st March 2010 at the same rent of £1 p.a.

The new hall was opened by Colonel Pen Lloyd (High Sheriff of Leicestershire) on 22nd April 1972.

In 1977 the College gave some extra land for an extension of the car park.

In 1979 the store room was constructed at the rear of the hall at a cost of approximately £1000, the funds being raised entirely by village residents.

IS IT RIGHT THAT THE COLLEGE SHOULD NOW BE ALLOWED TO BUILD ON THE LAND?