

The Opening of the Parish Hall – *but who are these people?*



Hallow would be lost without its Parish Hall. Indeed it is hard nowadays to find an evening slot to book the hall for an event. However, when the idea for a new venue in Hallow was first proposed in 1923, it was met with opposition at a meeting convened by the Vicar Canon J.F. Kershaw. Those opposing appear to have taken the view that the idea was 'a folly in expenditure' and it was argued that the School, the Working Men's Club and the Ex-Service Men's Hut could accommodate all the demands that the village might advance. However, the proposal won the vote by a narrow margin and it was agreed to open a Parish Hall Fund.

Fast forward 7 years to the Official Opening of Hallow's new Parish Hall. The photo above shows the dignitaries at the event but further identification reveals the driving forces behind the successful fund raising and hall design.



Back Row:

1. Chris Lock - 1914 Founder chairman of **HADS** (Hallow Amateur Dramatic Soc) & first secretary of Hall Committee 1930
2. Bill Hearn - from 'the Furlongs'
3. Fred Griffiths - **HADS** member
4. Harry Callaway - **HADS** member
5. Mr Knowles
6. .?

7. Mr Lock - from 'Elmley House' – **HADS** member

8. Mr E Moule - **HADS** playwright

9. Arthur Lord - Solicitor from 'Hallow Mount', **HADS** producer, clerk to the Parish Council and provider of the site for and road to the Parish Hall

Front Row

- 10, 11, 12. John, Dorothy & daughter Minnie Collett – Dorothy daughter of Joseph Banks
13. Mrs Banks – wife of Joseph Banks
14. Joseph Banks – of Hallow Park, major benefactor of Hallow Parish Hall & Playing Field
15. Mr Arthur Cherry – of Henwick Hall
16. Mrs Wheeler - of 'Heath Farm' whose family members acted in **HADS**
17. Rev Joseph Stallard Vicar of Hallow 1924 – 1934 & **HADS** member
18. Mrs Lucy Cherry – of Henwick Hall

So what was **HADS**?

Formed in 1914, Hallow Amateur Dramatic Society ambitiously performed twice most years, a pantomime or sketches at New Year and a concert at the summer fete held in Arthur Lord's garden at Hallow Mount. Playbills preserved at the Hive archives reveal a cast list of amateur thespians, playwrights, producers and directors very similar to the names listed above. Records reveal that Mr Banks, a major benefactor, insisted that the new hall design should include a proper stage to enable the show to go on! We can thank this unlikely troupe of entertainers for the Parish Hall we still enjoy almost a century later.



New Year Entertainment 1931 'A Christmas Carol'

Ann Finn – Hallow History Group

<https://hallowhistory.blogspot.com/>