

BEELEY

“CAVENDISH INSTITUTE”

Duke of Devonshire's Gift

The Opening Ceremony

Saturday was a memorable day for the little village of Beeley, on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth estate, for on that day the commodious Village Hall and Institute which His Grace the Duke of Devonshire has presented to the village was formally opened by the Duke, in the presence of a large number of villagers.

The need for the provision of an institute at Beeley has been felt for some time, and since the war the members of the local Women's Institute have worked untiringly in their efforts to raise money to provide such a building. By a number of efforts – flower shows, social evenings, etc – they realised about £250, and the Duke's generous offer to erect the institute has resulted in the culmination of their efforts earlier than it was at one time anticipated would be possible.

The site of the building, which is a substantial one constructed of wood on a concrete foundation, is near the Duke's barn and the school. It is a picturesque and self-contained erection, admirably situated. The accommodation consists of a large hall, in which there will be a billiard table, a kitchen, a store-room, and a room which will be reserved for the use of the members of the Women's Institute. The large hall will seat about 180 persons. It is up-to-date in every respect, lighted by electricity and with a central heating installation. Membership will be open to the residents of Beeley, and all employees and tenants on the Chatsworth estate, and the members' subscription will be 5s per annum. It will be open from 6pm till 10pm from Monday to Friday inclusive, and from 2pm till 10pm on Saturdays.

The money raised by the Women's Institute has been devoted to the furnishing of the building, which has been well carried out, one of the assets being a good piano. A provisional committee consisting of the Rev Howard Chadwick (vicar), Messrs Thomas Bond, Jacob Towndrow, E Morten, F G Freeman, Hilson, George Bond, Jacob Bond, J T Hutchinson, and Thomas Hutchinson, with the assistance of Mr J W Hulley (secretary of the Chatsworth Institute), has had charge of the preliminary arrangements prior to the opening. Mr Thomas Bond acting as hon secretary. A new committee will now be formed.

OPENED BY THE DUKE

The proceedings at the opening ceremony took place in the large hall, and were presided over by the Vicar (the Rev Howard Chadwick), who was supported by the Duke of Devonshire, Mrs Chadwick (president of the Women's Institute), Mr H F Lancashire (Calton Lees), Mrs Taylor (Calton Lees), Mr U Roland Burke (chief agent to the Duke of Devonshire), Mr F G C Hartopp (agent to the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth estate), Mr J R Jackson and Mr Thos Bond (temporary hon secretary).

His Grace said that he was very glad of the opportunity of taking part in an occasion which, he believed, had been eagerly anticipated by the people of Beeley. It was, he thought, nearly 50 years since he first attended a meeting at Beeley. In those days they used to have entertainments called penny readings. He daresay the people who indulge in cross-word competitions and whist drives might look rather askance at so humble an effort as a penny reading, but he could assure them that they used to be extremely good entertainments, and those who attended them had very happy and pleasant recollections of them. We had advanced a little since then, and for a long time past the people of Beeley

had been anxiously awaiting something of the sort they saw that day. He knew that they had worked very hard for it, and it was a real pleasure for him to co-operate with them and help to bring something into being and effect which would be a real benefit, not only to the village now, but for many generations to come. He very greatly regretted that the Duchess who, he knew had taken a great deal of interest in the movement, was unable to be with them. But she made arrangements some time ago to see her father, who had just celebrated his 80th birthday, and who, he was glad to say, was still in good health. Otherwise she would have been with them, and he knew that she would take an early opportunity of visiting them.

He was very glad indeed that the efforts, which had been steadily maintained for a long time past, had resulted in that institute being actually brought into effect. He hoped they would understand that that institute was for the village. He did not want to make any rules or lay down any regulations with regard to it – the matter was in their hands, and the success or failure of the institute rested with the village itself. Properly used – and he had every confidence that it would be – it could be made a real advantage, not only to the immediate people who used it, but its influence could make itself felt far and wide. They had experience in other parts of the country, and in the near neighbourhood, of other similar institutions, and in every case, he ventured to suggest, they had proved of real value and of real use. He had very great pleasure in formally declaring the building open. He trusted it would always be a source of assistance, help, amusement and elevation to all who took part in it, and he knew that they would do their best to make it a success, a real blessing, and a benefit to the community.

THE VILLAGE'S THANKS

In the name of the people of Beeley, the Vicar thanked His Grace for his magnificent gift to the parish. It was quite impossible for him to find words sufficiently adequate to express their appreciation and gratitude. It had long been felt that Beeley needed an institute of that kind; many an anxious parent had voiced the necessity for such a place, where their lads could go and spend their evenings in social intercourse and recreation. His Grace had kindly and generously met that need. It was also a reward to the efforts of the members of the Women's Institute, who set about trying to get money together to have a room which they could call their own otherwise than the school, which, of course, had its restrictions and limitations. But he did not think they ever thought, when they began, that they would succeed in having such a magnificent place as that. Their highest ambition was, perhaps, some old army hut. But now they had this beautiful, splendid building in the midst of their naturally picturesque village. He thanked the Duke for his gift, and also for the kind interest he and the Duchess took in Beeley. They appreciated it very much.

Mr Edwin Morten (Beeley Hill Top), in seconding the vote of thanks, said the parishioners were greatly indebted to the Duke and Duchess for such a magnificent and picturesque building, and they hoped in the days to come, to prove worthy of the kindness which had been shown them. It was a building which would stand the summer's sun and the winter's cold. He trusted that they would all do their best to make the institute a success. They also had to thank the Duke for the splendid tea they were about to have. They wished the Duke and Duchess good health, long life and prosperity.

Mrs Chadwick said that as president of the Beeley branch of the Women's Institute, she also had been asked to express their thanks to His Grace for his gift. When they looked around there was no need for words to express the kindness of the Duke in providing such a place for them to meet. She hoped that it would be a busy centre, not only in the social life, but in the intellectual life of the village.

The Vicar said that his Grace had given them permission to call the institute "The Cavendish Institute".

Afterwards there was an excellent tea for all the adult population of the village, provided through the generosity of His Grace. About 200 persons were present. The caterer was Mr G Siddons, of Pilsley.

The following were tray holders:- Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Haynes, Mrs Barber, Mrs R Halksworth, Mrs J P Stone, Mrs Hill, Mrs Palfreyman, Mrs Wilson, assisted by Mrs Towndrow, Mrs W Fearn, Mrs A Hulley, Mrs W Grindey, Mrs Hillson, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs A Holmes, Mrs W Harrison, Miss F Holmes, Miss Goddard, Miss Hollis, Miss Willgoose, Miss D Holmes, Miss M Hawksworth, Mrs Casey, and Miss W Bond. Valuable help was rendered by Mr T Bond (secretary), Mr Jacob Bond, Mr J T Hutchinson, Mr W Hawksworth, and Mr R Hill.

A concert followed, over which the Rev Howard Chadwick presided. Owing to the limited time, encores had to be cut out. The programme was an excellent one, those who contributed songs and recitations including Miss Florrie Holmes, Miss Ida Bacon (Youlgreave), Miss Kathleen Robertson, Miss N Fearn, Mrs J Wallwin, Mr J W Bedford, Mr W Morten and Mr Robinson. Miss Pilkington (of Rowsley) was the pianist, and played two pianoforte solos.

A dance, at which about 140 persons were present, concluded the day's programme. Mr W Ward (of Rowsley) was the MC, and Mr George Beard the pianist. Refreshments were served by the members of the Women's Institute.

It is stated that the cost of the erection of the institute was well over £1,000. It was designed by Mr Burke, and the plans were drawn by Mr F G Barnes (estate architect). The erection was carried out under the supervision of Mr J R Jackson.

The curtain rails with rustless roller bearings and curtains are the costly gift of Mrs Taylor of Calton Lees.

On Monday Mrs Taylor, who is a vice-president of the Women's Institute, entertained the members to tea in the Cavendish Institute, when a very enjoyable evening was spent. On Tuesday the members of the Women's Institutes of Bolehill, Baslow and Youlgreave were entertained to tea by the Beeley members.