

Extension of Willaston Institute

In 1956, a war memorial extension to Willaston Institute transformed the hall into a community centre for the village with a committee room, cloakroom and kitchen.

Until September 1953, the site was occupied by a wooden hut, which was erected as a 1914-18 war memorial in 1920. This hut was then moved to become headquarters for a Wallasey Sea Scout Troop.

The extension cost £3,180, whilst equipment and extra heating had cost a further £484. The Ministry of Education had made a grant of £1000 towards the cost of the building and a further grant towards the costs of equipment. Over £1000 was raised by house-to-house collections for the extension. At the time of opening, only £200 remained to be raised.

Mrs W. R. Glazebook, 83-year-old widow of the former patron of the Willaston living laid the foundation stone. Major Wilmott Welch, chairman of the memorial and the Institute committee described the memorial as the culmination of a dream cherished in Willaston. 'I hope we are going to make these dry stones live, not only as a memorial but as a meeting place to enrich our life' he concluded.





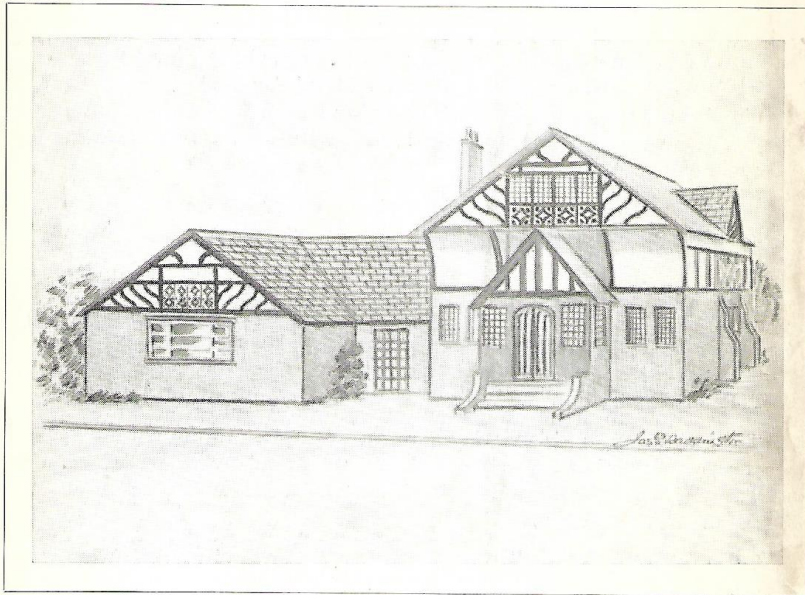
Photos from Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Service, reproduced with permission of Cheshire Shared Services.

Tony Whitehead remembers:

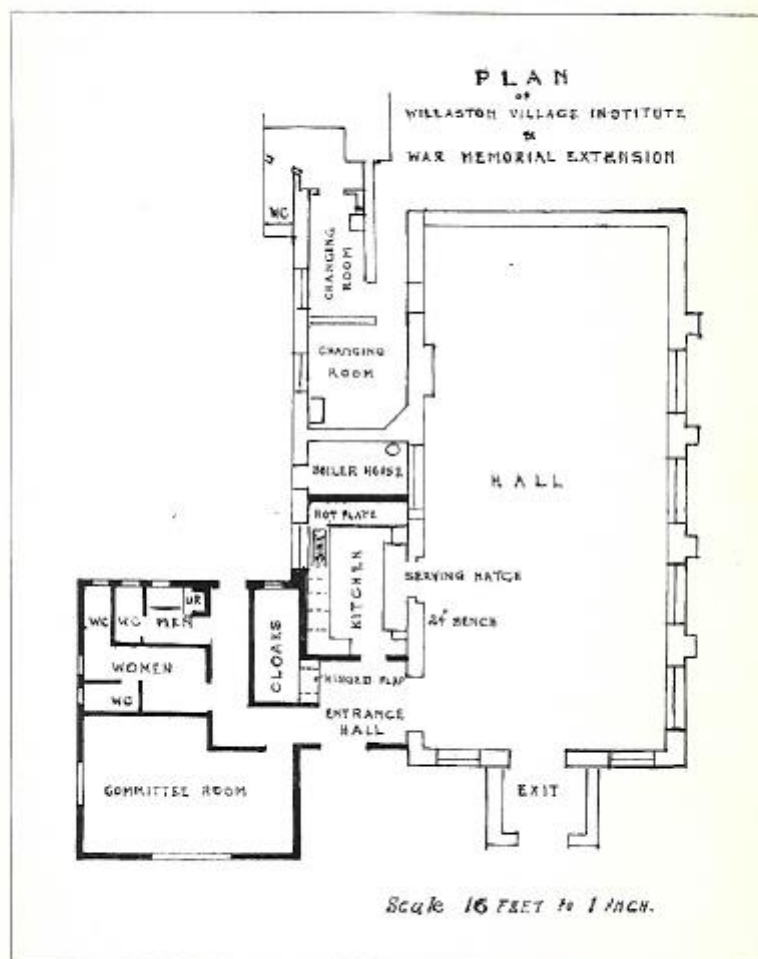
The air raid siren on top of the Institute used to be tested regularly and when I was at school, we would go into the air raid shelters which were dug into the ground next to the school – there were benches inside that we sat on. I also went dancing in the Hall, which had a lovely sprung wooden floor.

The pictures below are of the original fundraising leaflet, printed in 1948 (with thanks to Eileen Richmond).

WILLASTON WAR MEMORIAL



**An appeal for funds to replace the existing
War Memorial Hut with a permanent
building as a Memorial for the 1914-18
and 1939-45 wars.**



17/6/21

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO ANY MEMBER OF
THE APPEALS COMMITTEE**

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NOTE: *Cheques should be made payable to G. N. Fullagar - the Hon. Treasurer,
Appeals Committee.*