

1940's Memories

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER DATED 27 July 1992

FROM Mr. Harold BEST

GRANDSON OF Frederick Charles BEST

(one time village policeman and owner of the current village shop and Post Office)

to Robert Williams AUTHOR of "The Story of CHARLTON HORETHORNE in SOMERSET"



"The Village Hall

One of the highlights was the Annual Magic Lantern Lecture which was given by Mr. McMillan a member of the Western Gazette staff. The lectures took the form of a documentary on Somerset. The monochrome slides were projected by a projector illuminated by acetylene gas and very temperamental. From 1939 until I joined the RAF in 1942 with the late Keith Thompson and Cecil Collins, I provided music for dancing with an amplifier and turntable. During the last war several local girls met their future husbands at these dances which cost 6d admission and were known as "tanner hops". The dances were always crowded and drew a lot of off duty soldiers from the Searchlight Camp on Blackford Road. At this time Sigwells Aerodrome was not completed.

Up to the time I left the village in 1949 the hall was used to the fullest extent. Concert Parties visited the village, the W.I. would put on plays. The Scouts held a village Gang Show type of entertainment most years to raise funds. Whist Drives were also held regularly to maintain hall funds."