

## WILLOUGHBY CRICKET CLUB

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Gentlemen present on this illustrious occasion in the Reading Room on Lady Day, 25th March, 1901, were -

Messrs. A. Hall, W. Ivens, G. Malin, F. Ivens, J. Malin and A. J. Lowke.

## HISTORY

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The one thing that is certain is that 'The Green' (the present Club ground.) was used from 1901 to 1910 for Cricket, but early in 1911 the whole ground. was taken over for village allotments. Evidence of this is still present today as the Ground is riddled with old land drains where individual allotment holders laid their own drains - this would be fine if the drains had continued to run, but alas when 'The Green' reverted agricultural purposes sometime in the 1920's, the drains fell into disuse.

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The first Pavilion was purchased in 1936 at the cost of £18.00 when the Club used Brick Hill field - this wooden structure was sold in 1947 and is still in use in the village to this day.

In 1942 the Club again lapsed due to the Second World War until 1947 when the Club again reformed and returned to Big Ground where it continued until 1952.

In 1953 the Club moved back to its present home - "The Green" - Pye Court for the second time in it's history.

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However, after quite brief negotiations the Club were able to make an offer to the Executors which was agreed by return of post - at last - "The Green" was owned by the Club and our worst fears were over. the loans and donations made by Club members were absolutely magnificent - 44 members turned up to the Extraordinary General Meeting called to announce the result of the secret negotiations which in itself showed the genuine interest in the Club's future.

In March, 1974, at the Ivy House Farm sale held on Mr. S. Ivens retirement the Club successfully acquired a Tractor and later the same year purchased a good set of Ransome Gang Mowers from Southam Council.

In December, 1974, a tree planting scheme was launched by the Secretary and within 3 months some 50 trees had been donated by Club members. At the last count 74 trees have been planted. at "The Green" in the past 4 years.

Following the successful Tree planting the friends of Willoughby Cricket Club" again rallied to the cause when new seating was discussed and within 6 months 6 new Burma Teak Seats had been donated most generously.

In 1976 the infilling of the front porch of the original Pavilion to make our new Long Room where spectators and players can view the proceedings behind glass - what luxury compared with 1901.

#### VILLAGE AND CLUB

The strongest possible association has always been maintained between the Club and the village, many times during the clubs history the village has come to the rescue when organised efforts and fund-raising schemes have been launched.

As already stated - even of recent times - Trees - Seats have all been achieved with the assistance of the villagers of Willoughby.

The Club for its part has always represented the village on and off the field of play and is most proud of its close links with the local people.

The village can always be assured that with the competitive successes of recent years no longer can un-educated outsiders question the whereabouts or indeed the existence Willoughby.

NOVEMBER 1978.

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The need for secrecy can probably best be illustrated by the fact that 3 Club Committee meetings held during this period were convened in a private house outside the village. If the public at large and builders in particular had discovered that "The Green" was for sale the Club would have found itself in a spiralling market in which they could not compete.

However, after quite brief negotiations the Club were able to make an offer to the Executors which was agreed by return of post - at last - "The Green" was owned by the Club and our worst fears were over.

The loans and donations made by Club members were absolutely magnificent - 44 members turned up to the Extraordinary General Meeting called to announce the result of the secret negotiations which in itself showed the genuine interest in the Club's future.

In March, 1974, at the Ivy House Farm sale held on Mr. S. Ivens retirement the Club successfully acquired a Tractor and later the same year purchased a good set of Ransome Gang Mowers from Southam Council.

In December, 1974, a Tree planting scheme was launched by the Secretary and within 3 months some 50 trees had been donated by Club members. At the last count 74 trees have been planted at "The Green" in the past 4 years.

Following the successful Tree planting the "friends of Willoughby Cricket Club" again rallied to the cause when new seating was discussed and within 6 months 6 new Burma Teak Seats had been donated most generously.

In 1976 the infilling of the front porch of the original Pavilion to make our new Long Room where spectators and players can view the proceedings behind glass - what luxury compared with 1901.

#### VILLAGE AND CLUB

The strongest possible association has always been maintained between the Club and the village, many times during the clubs history the village has come to the rescue when organised efforts and fund-raising schemes have been launched.

As already stated - even of recent times - Trees - Seats have all been achieved with the assistance of the villagers of Willoughby.

The Club for its part has always represented the village on and off the field of play and is most proud of its close links with the local people.

The village can always be assured that with the competitive successes of recent years no longer can un-educated outsiders question the whereabouts or indeed the existence of Willoughby.

NOVEMBER 1978.