



HALL.—The Marquess of Ailesbury with Mr. Richard Marshall, chairman of the Hall Committee.

GRAFTON.

OPENED BY MARQUESS AILESBUURY.

Described as an effort signalling the work of everyone in the neighbourhood, Grafton Coronation Hall was formally opened by the Marquess of Ailesbury on Saturday.

Speaking of the hall as a worthy object, the Marquis said: "I think it is more than ever necessary nowadays that every community of people should have a central place where they can go for their entertainment—a place which will form a real centre of village life."

Built in keeping with its rustic surroundings, the hall, standing on the side of the village green, is made chiefly of Canadian cedar wood and will accommodate about 200 people. It has cost £450. Of this amount, £150 was contributed by the National Council of Social Service, another £150 was borrowed interest free over five years, while the remainder has been contributed by local people.

Introducing the Marquess, Mr. Richard Marshall, chairman of the Hall Committee, said it was a proud day for Grafton.

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The Marquess said everybody would appreciate the assistance of the National Council of Social Service, and Mr. John Hussey, of Bournemouth, who presented the site to the village. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Marquess by the Rev. W. R. W. Mortimer (Vicar of Grafton).

Mr. A. E. Cubison, proposing a vote of thanks to the committee, appealed to villagers to remember the committee had done its part. It remained for the inhabitants to do their share by using the hall. "Make it a centre for scattered hamlets," he urged.

To celebrate the Coronation of King George VI in 1938 the original Coronation Hall was opened.

It is difficult to read the press cutting but this was sent to the Community News team by a reader whose father lived in Saddlers Cottage at the time. The sender now lives outside the UK but emailed this cutting when he read about the new Coronation Hall on our website in 2009!

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