

UNATTRIBUTED LINSTEAD PARVA HISTORY NOTES CIRCA 1991

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LINSTEAD PARVA

Linstead Parva is a village some 4 miles west of Halesworth and is mainly a farming community. There were three village greens known as Blacksmiths, Morrell Haugh and Collipys Green. These have all been taken into farms.

A school, established in 1869 and attended by about 30 children, was held in the Literary Institute, which was built in 1852 by local efforts. It had about 250 volumes and thirty members who each paid a shilling a year. This building is now part of a cottage.

There is now no village shop, this closed in the 1970's, the public house closed in the 1950's. The blacksmiths was still working in the early 1970's and the old school closed in about 1913.

Where the blacksmiths was, is now a Garage, Repairs and Spares and Petrol Pumps. There is a Garden Machinery showroom and workshop and, under separate ownership, The Linstead Ironworks. These buildings are all situated on the main road through the village.

After the school, held in the Institute, closed, the children went to the school built on the lower road at Chediston which closed in 1958. They are now taken to various schools according to their age group.

" Linstead Parva has a village Hall and, like the Literary Institute, the money was raised by the efforts of the local people. Miss Adams retired teacher of Old School House trained us village folk for concerts. Great fun they were, our stage was made with barn doors and beer crates loaned from our local pub - The Greyhound. The first concert made £8 this was put towards chairs which are still in use - 50 chairs cost £10. Tables were hired so whist drives could be held to raise money for other items such as cups and saucers. A whist drive could bring in £7 or even less. The Hall was built in 1927 at a cost of £141 and was erected by a carpenter from Chediston village and a helper, on land Mr and Mrs Minns rented to the village for £1 per year. Some years later Mrs Minns gave the land to the village. The Hall was heated by a tortoise stove, coal was kept in a corner of the room and cost 2s 2d per cwt. Often when trying to light the stove you could come home looking like a sweep. Paraffin lamps gave out a good light, oil was 4s 4d for 5 galls. Sanitation was rather primitive, a small wooden hut at the back housed a large bucket, it was rather chilly in the winter months. The form of transport in those days was pony trap, so Mrs. Minns used her son's pram to take cleaning materials to the Hut also china and food for events. After the supper all the china and cutlery was put into two wash tubs and put outside to be washed up next day, not a happy thought. Today the village Hall is still well cared for, and well used. A very good kitchen has been added also toilets and store room where spare tables are kept also tressels, etc., for erecting a stage should it be required, a big improvement on barn doors and beer crates. It is a very popular hall for private functions. A fete is held every August to raise funds to help with the upkeep of the hall. The Hall committee consists of some of the grandchildren of the late Mr. and Mrs. Minns, hence it is well cared for."

The Church (St. Margaret) is a small flint building with a western turret of wood containing one bell. In 1973 Linstead Church was the venue of a Wedding Scene in the film: Requiem for a Village - filmed in different villages in the area.

The churchyard was also surveyed by a W.I. member with the help of a student. The Church stands near the main road through the village.

Chediston and Linstead villages have a joint parish council which attracts considerable public interest. Unfortunately its recommendations are not always heeded by higher authority!

Our village is such a little place,
A mere strip of land beside a brook.
I'll tell you how it got its name,
I found it written in a book..
Long years ago some goodly spirits came
A dwelling place to find,
They saw this place, a lovely patch of blue
Where in and out the brook did wind.
They liked the place and settled here,
But no name for it was found,
So they said we will call in Linstead
As there is Linseed on the ground.
They liked the people living here
For they were good and kind,
So they stayed to bless them
And help them all they could.
Those spirits are still with us
From all goodness flows,
We thank God for the day the spirits came
And found the place where LINSEED grows.