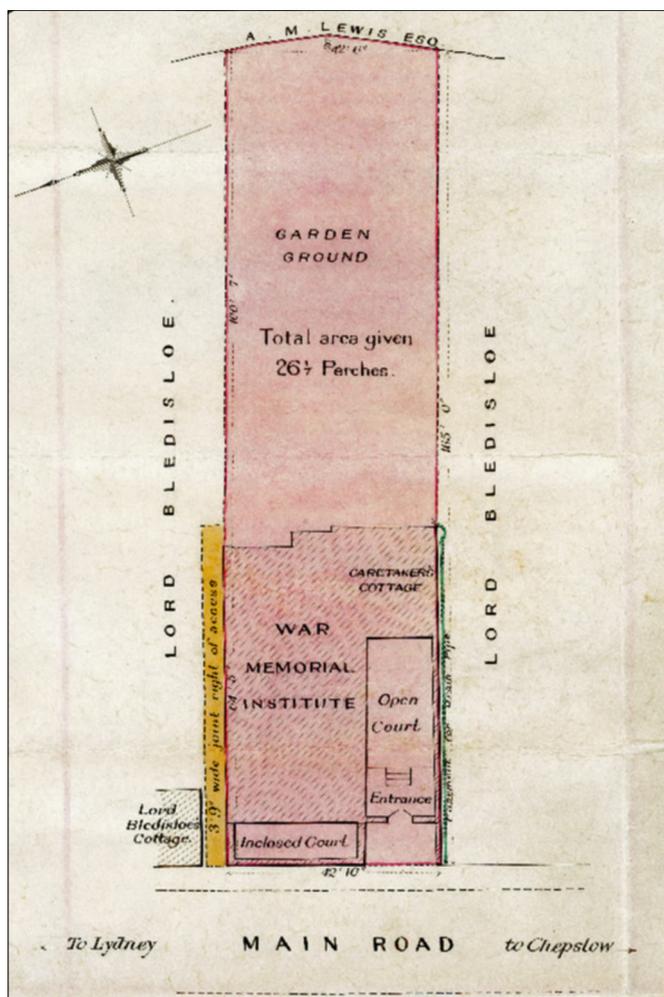


For almost a century the Memorial Hall has been a vital centre for village activities. It was created as a result of charitable gifts from the community to honour the Fallen of the Great War. The site and buildings were paid for by public subscription and a generous donation by Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe.

With the careful management by the Aylburton Village Club and strong support from residents, it has been developed over the years. In addition to generous gifts, long periods of service have been given to the Hall by many people. It owes relatively little to local or central government help although some grants have been received. This robust independence is part of the tradition of the village.



Foundation Stone below the main window



Gloucestershire Archives

Site plan for the Memorial Institute

Timeline

1918

At the invitation of Lord Bledisloe a meeting was held in November at Lydney Park to discuss the form of a memorial to the fallen of the Great War. Richard Thomas & Co. offered £1,500, and Lord Bledisloe £1,000, to the Joint Lydney and Aylburton Memorial Scheme Fund.

1919

At the Aylburton Parish Meeting, it was resolved to establish an institute with caretaker's cottage attached as a permanent war memorial for Aylburton.

Lord Bledisloe offered a free site for the institute. A committee was formed to carry out the scheme. In the autumn, a house-to-house appeal for funds raised £212.

1920

In January, Aylburton decided to be independent of the Joint Scheme. A 'Thank-offering Week' raised over £61. The committee affiliated to the Village Clubs Association in April and in June building was commenced. On July 10th 1920, the Foundation Stone was laid by Lady Bledisloe.

Aylburton War Memorial.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

The inhabitants of Aylburton having decided that their war memorial should consist of village institute, set about the task of raising £2,000. Towards this Lydney Tinsplate Company gave £500 whilst Lord Bledisloe subscribes £300 and site. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday afternoon.

Lady Bledisloe performing the ceremony, after which Mr. W. E. English chairman of the Parish Council, in the name of the Building Committee, asked her ladyship to accept as a memento of the occasion the silver trowel and the mallet she had used. Her Ladyship accepted the gift as well as a present of a beautiful bouquet flowers.

Mr. Emery, the hon. secretary, stated that to date they had collected just under £1,500 and wanted to open the institute free of debt.

Lord Bledisloe responded to a vote of thanks to Lady Bledisloe.

The Rev. H. P. Parker and Mr. V. H. Lamb took shares in the religious service. Mixed choirs sang hymns, and after the National Anthem had been sung "Last Post" was sounded.

Lord Bledisloe announced his pleasure subscribing a further £100.

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