



## **The Village Hall – the Blandford Hall**

The village hall known as the Blandford Hall is so named in memory of Ambrose and Blanche Blandford, the parents of Katie Blanche Hibbard. The hall was built as a chapel in 1869 on land containing a cottage owned by one David Read. In 1928 it was sold by a charity known as 'Union Chapel' to Katie Blanche Hibbard for the sum of £325.

In 1939 Mrs Hibbard gave the hall in trust to the parish of Martin "for the benefit of the inhabitants of Martin, provided that no religious or political meetings are held therein" and that "the hall shall be used for the purpose of recreational entertainments and the like of every kind tending towards the social welfare of the inhabitants of the said parish of Martin". The first trustees were Katie Blanche Hibbard, Richard Smith, Edgar Melsome and Albert Jesse Poore.

During the second world war the hall was used as a school room to accommodate evacuees from Portsmouth. In 1998 the hall was vested to the Official Custodian for Charities, Charity Commission no. 1051101.

### **Recent Improvements**

The hall has recently been renovated throughout and includes a modern kitchen fitted to industrial standard (funded by a bequest in memory of Sir Michael Cobham), along with disabled access loo, modern heaters and comfortable portable chairs. The small adjacent committee room has been converted to a community shop open daily, Monday to Saturday.

The Hall is used regularly by Martin Day Nursery, Busy Bees Toddler Group and Future Farms who run the shop and Saturday Market. We welcome inquiries for repeat booking from groups and organisations and casual bookings for private parties and functions.

### **2016 Martin Parish Council**