

The Grove Building

Church Street, Mere

History

The Grove Building was built in 1891 at a cost of £2,400 as an annexe to the National School, then in what is now the library.

The land was purchased and the building costs supplied by Miss Julia Chafyn Grove who was a local benefactress responsible for funding many other local amenities in the area. Prior to the site's development it had variously been a Rag & Bone business and a Salvation Army Gospel band barracks.

The Benefactress:

The Chafyn family owned Zeals House from 1452 to 1968 and by marriage in the 17th century the family assumed the name of Chafyn Grove. Miss Julia inherited the property on the death of her brother in 1865. Miss Julia was a great benefactor donating not only the Grove Building but also the land upon which St Matthews Church was built along with generous deeds in Zeals, Salisbury, Wincanton and gave name to the Chafyn Grove School in Salisbury.

She died in 1891 and was the last occupier to bear the family name. The property was left to her cousin.



During the First World War the Grove building was a Red Cross hospital staffed by volunteers. 1273 sick and wounded soldiers were treated there. In World War Two it served as a rest centre for evacuees from Wimbledon, London escaping the flying bombs.



The VAD Hospital run by the British Red Cross Society 1914-1919

In the present building you will find a large wooden commemorative plaque naming all those who volunteered at the hospital during the Great War. Below is a list of names in alphabetical order that appear on the commemoration and the accompanying descriptive text.

THIS BUILDING was used as a RED CROSS HOSPITAL

DURING THE GREAT WAR.

OPENED OCTOBER 10TH 1914; CLOSED FEBRUARY 28TH 1919.

1,273 SICK and WOUNDED SOLDIERS were IN-PATIENTS.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE

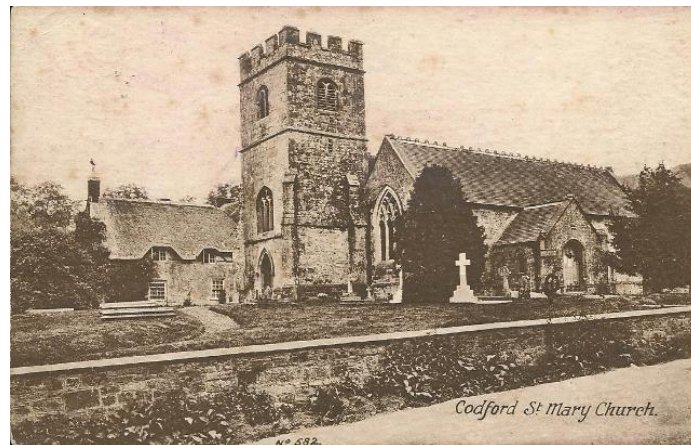
VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT

B. R. C. S. DORSET 16

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	OTHER	POSITION HELD	NOTES
Barnes	E.			
Bartlett	B. Pope		Anaesthetist & Radiographer	
Baverstock	F.			
Beauchamp	F.			
Beauchamp	G.			
Borradaile	K.			
Brice	J.			
Bristow	A.			
Butler	N.			
Butt	A.			
Butt	M.			
Carter	A.			
Chell	M. A.		Quartermaster	
Cook	G.			Men's Detachment

Coombes	F.			Men's Detachment
Coward	Alan			Men's Detachment
Coward	Alex			Men's Detachment
Cowley	E.			
Dangibau	F.			
Dascombe	F.			Men's Detachment
Davis	C.			Men's Detachment
Davis	H.	A. R. C. C.	Sister In Charge	
Dean	F.			
Decent	J. W.			Men's Detachment
Dewey	L.			
Edmunds	S. M.			
Edwards	R. A.			Men's Detachment
Farnfield	W. W.		Medical Officer	
Foot	S. A.			
Ford	F.		Secretary	
Ford	Fred			Men's Detachment
Fry	D.			
Godwin	N.			
Gray	L.			
Gray	P.			
Gribble	E.			
Griffith	D.			
Griffith	M.			
Harding	N. W.			Men's Detachment
Hartgill	V.			
Harvey	R. M.			Men's Detachment
Hopkins	L.			
Jupe	B.			
Jupe	E. M.			
Lampard	E.			
Lampard	L.			Men's Detachment
Lampard	M. J.			
Lander	F. H.			
Lander	W.			Men's Detachment
Lloyd	M. K.		Sister in Charge	
Mansfield	F.			
Mills	A.			
Mitchell	H.			
Mitchell	S.			
Muspratt	R. A. L.			Men's Detachment
Neville	M.			
Norris	V.			
Osborne	M.			
Osborne	W.			
Pimm	F. P.			Men's Detachment
Polden	T.			Men's Detachment

Randall	N.			
Roe	M.			
Rutter	F. B.		Deputy Medical Officer	
Skeates	L.			Men's Detachment
Steven	L.			
Sullivan	A. E.			Men's Detachment
Trotman	F. E.	Reverend	Chaplain	
Trotman	M.			
Troyte-Bullock	E. G.			
Troyte-Bullock	G. M.		Quartermaster	
Walters	M.			
Whatley	H. C.			Men's Detachment
White	G. B.			
White	M. B.	O.B.E.	Commandant	
Wilcox	R.			
Woodford	H.			Men's Detachment
Wooley	L. G.			
Yeoman	D.	A. R. R. C.		



This postcard of Codford St. Mary was sent to Nurse Jupe at the V.A.D. Hospital in Mere. The postmark is dated 26th May 1916 and was sent we believe by a grateful patient. It reads:-

"Many thanks for P.C. I hope you did not mind me sending the P.C. I am still in hospital. I am getting on fine now. I hope you enjoy your holidays. Remember me to Nurse Griffith. [signed] A. Bartlett.

There are two nurses listed with the surname Jupe and also two nurses with the surname Griffith. It would be good to find out which nurses are referred to and what happened to A. Bartlett. If anyone can add further information then please contact the web site Administrator.