

**WYTHALL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 1937 – 2012
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF WYTHALL FOR THE PAST 75 YEARS**

A HISTORY OF THE MAKING OF A COMMUNITY

Researched & compiled by Stephen Peters with grateful thanks to Wythall Residents Association for permitting access to their archives.

The year 1937

Notable for a number of historic events:

- King George VI had recently acceded to the throne
- First UK opinion poll
- First jet engine tested in UK
- Guernica bombed
- First Wimbledon broadcast by BBC
- First 999 call made
- Tolkien's *The Hobbit* published
- Sellotape goes on sale
- Birmingham Civic Centre (Baskerville House) under construction
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital nearing completion
- Sunderland beat Preston North End 3-1 in FA Cup Final
- Aston Villa played in English Division 2
- Birmingham City played in English Division 1
- **Wythall, Hollywood, Maypole and District Ratepayers' and Residents' Association established**

Wythall in 1937

The civil parish of Wythall in Worcestershire was originally much larger in extent than the current parish.

Between 1898 and 1911 Wythall was a ward in Kings Norton civil parish under the administration of Kings Norton and Northfield Urban District Council

in Worcestershire. In 1911, as a result of boundary changes under the Greater Birmingham Act, Wythall became a new civil parish in its own right, initially linked with Beoley to form a separate rural district and finally on 31st March 1912 it became an integral part of the Bromsgrove Rural District Council area. Its northern boundaries extended to Maypole Lane as far as the Prince of Wales public house. The eastern boundary was the Fordrough in Truemans Heath, beyond which lay Solihull Urban district. The boundary was later changed by local government legislation and parts of Hollywood were transferred to Birmingham. Much later, Majors Green was transferred from Solihull to Bromsgrove district on 1st April 1964. At the same time, the Birmingham city boundary was extended south from Maypole to absorb part of the residential area of Hollywood.

Maypole was a crossroads at the city boundary of Birmingham and the location for a public house, The Maypole Picture House (cinema) and a fish and chip saloon. Trams ran from the city centre as far as Alcester Lanes End, with Corporation buses running to Maypole. Midland Red buses ran between the city and the rural areas. The A.435 Alcester Road was the main road linking south Birmingham to Cheltenham and beyond. Station Road and Middle Lane formed another crossroads to the south of the village.

Wythall was developing rapidly, with extensive housebuilding taking place. Mains services such as sewerage and water were being installed and many roads had deep trench excavations as these works proceeded. Electric lighting to those homes that had it was provided by the private Shropshire, Worcestershire & Staffordshire Electric Power Co. (later to become the Midlands Electricity Board or MEB after nationalisation).

Many homes relied on open coal fires for heat and hot water. Water was drawn from wells and water pumps; and sanitary facilities would comprise outside earth closets, cess pits and dumbwells before the advent of mains drainage. Very few homes had a telephone. Most homes had a wireless but television was still in its infancy.

Few people had cars and they relied on public transport (buses and trains) to get to work. The local farms were working entities and farmers used horses as motive power in the fields.

The Worcestershire Constabulary had Police Stations in Wythall and Hollywood (telephone Maypole 2061) and there was a civil defence depot on Alcester Road near the Packhorse Hotel. The nearest fire brigade was based in Solihull and a telephone call would have to be made to arrange their attendance.

There were Post Offices at Hollywood (on Alcester Road opposite the Links Garage now Tesco Express) and at Wythall just south of the police station on the opposite side of the road (the existing house is called The Old Post Office).

Two schools served the Wythall area – the Council School in Silver Street and St Mary’s school next to the parish church.

Birmingham was expanding rapidly and Wythall was an obvious place to move to in the Inter-War years. There were no planning restrictions such as we have today, and no greenbelt designation so new house building flourished in the area. There was little in way of services to these new properties and the need for infrastructure led to the formation of a ratepayers and residents association to bind together the community and to deal with the authorities responsible for existing and desired comforts of modern-day living.

The population of Wythall was stated to be 1,000 in 1929, increasing to 2,500 by 1933 and had grown to a stated 5,000 by 1939. In 1954 there was every expectation that the population would increase to 8,000 within the next two years.

After World War II there was a problem in Wythall caused by the proliferation of caravans used as dwellings and newspaper reports and other documents indicate the extent of the problem.

The leather-bound Minute Books and records of the Association give a hand-written monthly account of the development of the parish, the matters considered by the committee and an insight into life in Wythall (it was frequently spelt with only one letter “l”).

Society was very much male-dominated in the 1930’s and the driving force behind the Association were all men. Life was very formal in those days and all officers and committee members were known only by their surnames and initials.

The idea of founding the Association was first mooted in 1935 by Messrs F. Morgan and H. F. Smith.

The inaugural meeting

November 12th 1937 – the first General Meeting.

“A General Meeting was held on Friday November 12th 1937 in the Schoolroom at Kingswood, Hollywood for the purpose of considering the desirability of forming a Ratepayers and Residents Association for the Parish of Wythall.

Mr H Smith of Truemans Heath said a few of the ratepayers had gathered together as a result of the expressed opinion that a Ratepayers Association should be formed. In every case, when a ratepayer was approached, he or she was of the opinion that the project should be carried out.

Personally he thought that such an association should have been formed years ago. As a result of their investigations a leaflet had been distributed and this excellent meeting was the result.

Mr Smith proposed that Councillor E. A. Turner be elected Chairman, and this was carried unanimously. Councillor Turner acknowledged the honour that had been paid him. He remarked the formation of such an Association was mooted some two years ago, and he considered the time was now ripe. He would like to remind them that Wythal was only one of 14 parishes in Bromsgrove Rural area, and that they did not get matters all their own way. He was certain that it was only by unity of effort a community could get what it wanted.

The idea of this Association was not that of flouting Authority, but by strong representation, to get the best possible for the district. Worcestershire County Council, he said, took 85% of the rates of Wythal leaving only 15% for the Rural district council. This, in his opinion, was too small a proportion and he proposed by strong local representation to get more granted by the County Council, to the district council.

Mr Morgan, of Hollywood Lane, heartily agreed with the chairman. Not only would such an association be a help to the district, but it would foster sociability in forming a Club for whist drives, social intercourse, concerts, etc.

Messrs Clayton and Eastwood, representatives from the Shirley Residents Association, addressed the meeting giving their experiences in dealing with "Solihull Council" and urging the meeting to form an association, wishing the proposed association every success.

Mr P. A. Rock of Westfield Avenue said he was willing to do all he could to further the scheme. He could not promise much in the financial sense, but his contribution would be by service. What one did not know could always be got by seeking advice and he advocated the formation of the Association proposed.

The following resolution was proposed, and carried unanimously:

That an Association be formed under the title of "THE WYTHALL, HOLLYWOOD, MAYPOLE & DISTRICT RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION".

The following Officers were appointed:

President: Councillor E. A. Turner

Vice-President: Mr H. Smith

Secretary: Mr P. H. Rock

Assistant Secretary: Mr C. S. Yeomans

Treasurer: Mr F. W. Morgan

The following were chosen as the Committee:

To represent Westfield Avenue, Maypole Lane, Highters Heath, Hollywood, Grimes Hill, Silver Street and areas surrounding these centres:

Messrs. C. Elton, A. Martin, J. V. Ward, W. G. Nixon, A. J. Fowler, J. W. Cook, G. A. Roddis, T. Twigg, A. J. Bridges, O. V. Bragg, E. Levy, R. J. Parker, J. Sunderland, L. Gough, J. H. Moore, C. S. Yeomans, J. B. Griffiths.

Questions were asked of the Shirley representatives and Councillor E. A. Turner by Messrs Levy, Sunderland, Parker, Griffiths, Yeomans and others regarding rates, water charges and sanitary matters affecting the district. These were satisfactorily answered. Practically the whole of those present enrolled as members, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Officers concluded a very successful meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer would take steps to acknowledge membership when official paper was available.

Read, accepted and signed by E. A. Turner, Chairman & President"

Unfortunately, no record exists of the names of those attending the inaugural meeting. However, further details of the Officers and Committee appear at the front of the Minute Book:

President: Clr Ernest. A. Turner, business address in Maypole Lane, home address Bedford House, Hampton Lane, Solihull
Mr Turner apparently had a company called Turner Limited. He was a Rural District councillor and later a County Councillor and J.P.

Vice-President: Horace. F. Smith, Marcia, Truemans Heath, Hollywood, Wythal

Hon. Secretary: P. H. Rock, "Emsley", 31 Westfield Ave, Maypole Lane, B'ham 14

Hon. Assistant Secretary: C. S. Yeomans, Treglonnessy, 10, Silver Street, Wythal

Hon. Treasurer: F. W. Morgan, Linden Hurst, 127 Hollywood Lane, Hollywood, Wythal

The Committee and districts allotted were as follows:

Westfield Estate, Maypole Lane

Mr A. Martin, 147 Maypole Lane, Nr Kings Heath, B'ham 14

Mr Ward J. V. "Greenfields", Courtway Avenue, Maypole Lane, Kings Heath, 14

Mr Elton C.

Mr Nixon W. G.

Highters Heath

Mr Fowler A. J. 371 Highters Heath Lane, Hollywood, B'ham 14

Mr Cook J. H. (Calthorpe 1138) 26 Arundel Road, Hollywood, B'ham 14

Mr Roddis G. A. 379, Highters Heath Lane, Hollywood, B'ham 14

Hollywood

Mr Twigg T. H. 49 Maypole Lane, Hollywood, B'ham 14

Mr Bridges A. J. Sherford, Hollywood, B'ham 14

Mr Bragg O. V. White Lodge, Hollywood Lane, Wythal

Grime Hill

Mr Levy E. Clydecot 437 Alcester Road, South Wythal

Mr Parker R. J. 64 Lea Green Lane, Wythal

Mr James B Griffiths Brambleside, Lea Green Lane, Wythall

Silver Street

Mr Gough L. No 1 Silver St, Wythal

Mr Moore

Mr C. S. Yeomans, Asst. Sec. Treglonnessy, 10, Silver Street, Wythal

Index to the first minute book

In addition to the mundane matters such as annual subscriptions, bank account etc. the index gives an insight into the topics of concern to residents in the early days:

Air raid shelters, Birmingham & Midland Federation of Residents Associations, bus services, Shropshire, Worcestershire & Staffordshire Electric Power Co. , cesspools, dumbwells, entertainment committee, electricity, footpaths, gas masks, footpaths, house numbering, Midland Red, savings campaign, Spitfire Fund, war time policy.

The first Committee Meeting November 22nd 1937

"The first committee meeting was held on Monday November 22nd 1937 in the Registered Offices of the President, Clr E. A. Turner.

A full Committee was present with the exception of the Asst. Sec. Mr C. S. Yeomans.

Councillor E. A. Turner presided and the first pleasing duty he performed was the handing to the Hon. Sec. Mr P. H. Rock a cheque for £50 on behalf of the Wythal, Maypole, Hollywood & District Ratepayers & Residents Association. This magnificent gift from Councillor E. A. Turner was gratefully acknowledged by all present.

The next item on the agenda was the formation of the Rules of the Association and after careful consideration 16 Rules were adopted for presentation at the next Special General meeting of the Association.

Item 3 – Banking Facilities. Proposed by Mr Parker, seconded by Mr Sunderland that the Midland Bank, Temple Row, B'ham be the Bank for the Association. This was unanimously carried.

Powers to sign: Proposed by Mr Sunderland, seconded by Mr Twigg that powers be granted to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr F. W. Morgan), the Hon. Sec. (Mr P. H. Rock), the Chairman Cllr E. A. Turner, Asst. Hon. Sec. C. S. Yeomans Esq., Vice Chairman H. Smith Esq. Carried unanimously.

A Mandate to that effect was forthcoming from Mr Parker.

Item 4 – Membership Cards. It was resolved that all members of the Association should receive membership cards in the form of a Year Book, as presented by the Shirley Residents Association.

Item 5 – The Association Official Paper. Was left with the Secretary to order.

Item 6 – The Secretary was ordered to write all local organisations as a friendly gesture to offer any such support that the Association could, to their mutual liking.

Item 7 – Notice of Existence of Association. Councillor E. A. Turner offered to advise the County Council in person, that the Maypole, Wythal, Hollywood and district Ratepayers and Residents Association was duly and officially formed. He would report on this later.

Item 8 – It was proposed by Councillor E. A. Turner that a New Year Children's Party be provided to children of the Ratepayers and Residents Association. This would take the shape of an afternoons picture show at the Maypole Picture House, followed by tea. To organise this a special sub-committee was formed and the following Committee Members were elected: Mr Ward, Mr Fowler, Mr Bragg, Mr Sunderland, Mr Gough. Cllr E. A. Turner would get his co-directors decision and would inform the Committee.

Item 9 – Additional Member of Committee. The name of Mr James B. Griffiths was put forward by Mr Parker as an extra representative for the Grimes Hill area, who was therefore unanimously elected and his name added forthwith.

Item 10 – We were further indebted to our Chairman Cclr. E. A. Turner, when he announced his intention of providing a Freehold Site for the prospective Social Hall. This information was received with approbation. A vote of thanks to Cclr. E. A. Turner was proposed by Mr Twigg and seconded by Mr Bragg and the unanimous support of all present was given.

The next meeting would be a Special General called for Thursday December 2nd 1937.”

The Special General Meeting December 2nd 1937

“A Special General Meeting was held at Kingswood Schoolrooms on Thursday December 2nd 1937 for the purpose of adoption of the Rules of the Association.

18 Rules were adopted and an additional Rule formed i.e. No 19, all under the following headings:

NAME, OBJECTS, MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTION, APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP, EXPULSION, MEETINGS, SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEE, COMMITTEE QUORUM, ELECTION, VOTES, ASSOCIATION RULES (ALTERATIONS OF), COMMITTEE MEETINGS, RULES AMENDMENT

Rule 19 additional Districts Representation.

Rules slightly amended by a 2/3 majority as constituted under rule 18 were: Rule 3, Rule 7 Part A, Rule 8, Rule 15, New Rule 19.”

The meeting then proceeded to conduct other business and to receive reports. Matters recorded include disproportionate charges for electric supplies, Midland Red bus service charges and the condition of roads following works by the sewerage contractor, special rates and charges for lighting and water. It was also reported that the freehold site for Community Hall would soon be cleared and construction commenced forthwith.

A copy of the original Rules was inserted in the Minute Book by virtue of a later resolution passed on 3rd January 1939. They are reproduced below:

PROPOSED NEW RULES

For

THE WYTHALL, HOLLYWOOD, MAYPOLE and DISTRICT RATEPAYERS and
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Name

- (1) That the Association be called The Wythall, Hollywood, Maypole and District Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Objects

- (2) That the Association be non-sectarian and non-political and that it shall have as its objects the protection and furtherance of the interests of the ratepayers and residents of the above Association.

Membership

- (3) That the Membership of the Association be restricted to Residents of Wythall parish.

Subscription

- (4) The membership subscription shall be the sum of 1/- per annum and be for the period from 12th November in any year to the 11th November in the following year.

Applications for Membership

- (5) Members will be accepted by the Association on payment of one shilling annual subscription, subject to approval of the Committee/
- (6) That the Committee shall accept such application and admit the applicant to membership unless a majority of the Committee shall oppose such application when the applicant shall be informed that his application has been refused and the tendered subscription shall be returned to him.

The Committee shall not be called upon to give any reason for such refusal.

All Applicants for membership shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules of the Association and applications shall be held to infer acceptance of such Rules and compliance with the objects of the Association.

Cessation of Membership

- (7) Members shall cease to be Members:
 - (a) By non payment of subscription by the end of the year.
 - (b) By resignation
 - (c) By expulsion

Expulsion

- (8) The Committee shall have power to reprimand suspend or expel from membership any member who shall infringe any Rule or whose conduct shall in their opinion render he or she unfit for membership, but no member shall be suspended or expelled without being first summoned before the Committee to explain his conduct and without being given an opportunity to advance a defence and such expulsion or suspension shall not operate unless a majority of the Committee then present shall vote for his suspension or expulsion. Every member so summoned shall receive at least three days clear notice in

writing from the Secretary and such notice shall contain a statement of the charge brought against the member.

No subscription or any part thereof shall be repayable by reason Of any suspension or expulsion as aforesaid.

Meetings

- (9) That the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in November in each year on a date to be fixed by the Committee of which at least 10 days notice shall be given. Such notice shall be given either by a communication to each member or by such advertisement or display of notices as the Committee shall direct.

The business to be transacted at such Meetings shall be such business as may be submitted by the Committee or by any Member who shall have given to the Committee notice of a motion in writing at least 7 days before the date of such Meeting.

Special General Meetings

- (10) A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary in the following cases:-
- (a) Upon the direction of the Committee.
 - (b) On a request in writing signed by at least 25 members stating the object thereof and such Meetings shall be held within not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days from the date of the receipt by the Secretary of the request.

Notice of a Special General meeting shall be given in the same manner as for the Annual General meeting.

Officers

- (11) The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be ex-officio at all meetings.

Committee

- (12) The Committee shall consist of the Officers and fifteen Committee men with power to co-operate. The Committee shall have the power to do all acts and things which shall in its opinion be necessary or desirable for carrying out the objects or Rules of the Association.

It shall meet in such places and at such times with the Secretary with the approval of the President or, in any absence of which he shall notify the Secretary, the Vice-President shall appoint, and the Secretary shall give such

notice of such Meetings accordingly provide always the Meetings shall take place at least nine times in each year.

Committee Quorum

- (13) That a Quorum shall consist of 7.

Election

- (14) The Officers and Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold Office until the next Annual General Meeting, unless any Officer or Committee man shall resign or shall be deposed by a two-third majority at any Special General Meeting. Any vacancy caused in such manner shall be filled by such person or in such manner as the Committee shall appoint provided that such appointment shall be placed before the next General Meeting for confirmation.

Votes

- (15) At any General Meeting of the Association each member shall have one vote. Upon a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Rules

- (16) The Rules of the Association shall be altered only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose provided that a written notice of such proposed alteration containing particulars thereof, unless moved by the Committee, shall be delivered to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of such Meeting.

Committee Meeting

- (17) Five clear days notice shall be given when calling a Committee Meeting.

Rules (Amendment)

- (18) That Rules be amended or added to at a General Meeting only by a two-third majority and notice of such amendment to be in the hands of the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the Meeting.

New Rule

- (19) That at least 3 Members shall represent each of the 5 districts throughout the Parish.

Signed E. A. Turner

It may be noted that the above Rules contain no mention of Financial matters, Auditor or a Bank Account, nor do they specify the 5 districts mentioned in New Rule 19.

Special Committee Meeting January 25th 1938

The meeting was termed a Special Committee Meeting and was held at the offices of Cclr. E. A. Turner. The proposed Children's Party was fixed for March 1st (Shrove Tuesday) 1938 for members' children between the ages of 4 and 15 at a cost not exceeding 4d per child.

Affiliation to the Birmingham and Midland Federation of Residents Associations was discussed.

Mr Roddis (a future Secretary of the Association) had suggested that refuse be removed from properties weekly instead of fortnightly. Cclr E. A. Turner informed the meeting that this would incur an extra rate to cover the extra cost of labour.

A question arose regarding Fire Brigade services and it was reported that Birmingham had previously refused and that if any other district fire brigade was enlisted this would result in a rate rise of 1½d and the cost of the firemen's time would be added.

The charges for electric came under consideration with reference to residents of Bacca Box Lane. A letter would be written to the Member of Parliament drawing attention to the special Act of Parliament (Consolidated Loan Act) being sought by S.W.S. Electric Co. and this Association would oppose the attempt.

A letter would be written to the Clerk to the Council requesting that emptying of dumb wells be free of charge and calling for a speed restriction in Maypole Lane and a temporary path beyond Westfield Avenue to the Prince of Wales boundary.

The Chairman advised that as the housing in this area was that of 12 to the acre, we should have the benefit of urbanised privileges such as speed limits and preventative measures.

Special General Meeting February 21st 1938

The meeting was held at Kingswood Sunday School rooms, Packhorse Lane, Hollywood and discussed the road conditions after the construction of the sewerage scheme. A letter would be sent to Bromsgrove Rural District Council condemning the method of working and asking that the cost of removal of debris and reinstatement should be included in the cost of the contract.

The Chairman Cclr. E. A. Turner raised the matter of the District Health Committee which included 2 members from Wythall, 2 members from

Alvechurch and 1 member from Cofton Hackett. He considered this was insufficient representation for such a large area. These three districts were providing 60% of the Rural district rates. Wythall were the second largest ratepayers. He outlined a scheme whereby a separate District Council could be formed to include the above mentioned three districts.

Traffic signs for the junction of Silver Street and Alcester Road had not been provided by the urban authorities despite a wait of 6 months.

B.R.D.C. had intimated that Wythall was now large enough to be split into 2 wards for representation on the Council. There was a desire in Barnt Green and Alvechurch to form Residents Associations.

A Ladies Entertainment Committee was elected comprising Miss O'Connor, Mrs Bragg, Mrs Styler, Mrs Goldsmith, Mrs Burman, Miss Scarey, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Rock with power co-opt.

The cost of emptying dumb wells was once again raised. B.R.D.C. would not empty them and completion of the sewer in Maypole Lane would cost Birmingham Corporation £80,000. In the meantime B.R.D.C. could flow substances into sewers of an adjoining Authority. This explained the special 9/- rate by Bromsgrove and £1.10.0 was required by Birmingham for disposal of sewage. This rate paid through Bromsgrove to Birmingham would cease on April 1st 1938. The above explained the complaint from the proprietor of the Maypole Fish Saloon that he had paid rates twice to Bromsgrove & Birmingham.

In relation to emptying of cesspools there was a rebate of £1 due to residents who undertook to empty their own. Also, to those not supplied by electricity there was a rebate of 10/- per year. The first section of the sewerage undertaking would be opened in June next.

Information was awaited from Birmingham Corporation regarding the water supply for the whole of Wythall. If the rates collected equalled 1/10 of the cost of laying water supply this cost would be charged to the local authority. A letter would be sent to B.R.D.C. requesting an estimated cost for supplying the whole parish of Wythall.

"The Chairman charged the Council Authorities that their remission towards matters of importance and which require their immediate attention was due to the fact that always they excused themselves that understaffing left them with more business than they could cope with. The obvious remedy would be to staff the concern with competent and experienced members instead of juniors as at present".

Mr Smith announced further particulars regarding the Whist Drive and Dance.

Committee Meeting March 4th 1938

The meeting was held at the offices of Councillor E. A. Turner in his absence.

Questions were raised about the additional expense for postage and postcards advising members of the General Meeting. In future such meetings would be notified by postcards personally delivered by the Committee members responsible for their own areas.

There was disapproval of a member's action to withdraw spot prizes previously promised for the Dance. The M.C. was considered to be responsible for such matters. The sub-committee's disapproval was defeated by a vote of confidence in Mr Yeomans.

A letter would be written to the Police Superintendent for the Redditch Area proposing a scheme to protect school children from the dangers of traffic.

A 3-way sign was required at the approach to Westfield Avenue indicating that Insull Road and Courtway Avenue were branches from Westfield Avenue as this was causing inconvenience for visitors to the estate.

Committee Meeting March 22nd 1938

A charge of 15/- was made for hiring Wythall Institute for dances compared with only 10/- for the District Nursing Association. The different charges were attributed to charitable affairs and a list of charges would be obtained.

It was considered that Wythall was now large enough to warrant its own official news reporter for the Redditch Indicator to report on the Association's public events.

An explanation was sought from Parish Councillors on the Committee as to the objects and aims of the Parish Council.

The Whist Drive and Dance arrangements were discussed and it was agreed to write to the Rev. G Cooper to request permission to hold it in the new Church Hall (Highters Heath Lane).

Mr Yeomans had tendered his resignation as Asst. Sec. and this was accepted with regrets. Mr Smith was elected pro tem in his stead in addition to his office as Vice-Chairman.

Committee Meeting April 21st 1938

The meeting discussed litter scattered in the neighbourhood and advertisements erected around shops Maypole Lane and the main road which were still to some extent a rural locality.

The Stratford Memorial Theatre would be approached for particulars of bookings and the Entertainment Committee would discuss future plans.

There was a suggestion that a bus should be made available at 3.30 pm at Wythall School. It was also reported that the 5.15 pm Midland Red bus from town had discontinued operating via Hollywood Lane as originally was the case.

B.R.D.C. had confirmed the request for a 30 MPH speed limit on Maypole Lane, construction of a path to the Prince of Wales boundary and a new name plate for Westfield Avenue.

Worcestershire Constabulary Police station at Redditch had written regarding request for protection of schoolchildren at Drakes Cross and First Aid equipment for use in connection with street accidents.

S.W. & S. Electric Co had apologised for errors in assessment charges for Bacca Box Lane properties.

Committee Meeting May 23rd 1938

A matter regarding freehold rents was considered outside the jurisdiction of the Association.

A possible Garden Fête was under consideration possibly in conjunction with Wythall District Nursing Association. A further suggestion for an Ascot Sweepstake was met with disapproval.

Mr Yeomans had returned to the Committee and had been reinstated in his former official position.

Committee Meeting Friday June 3rd 1938

18 officers / members were present with 2 apologies.

*"The Chairman commented on the relation between **Local Government and the communal spirit**. He emphasised the fact that the moral or private lives of the members was nothing to do with the Association so long as a member does not run detrimentally to the public life of the community it is not the business of the Association to enquire into or seek the reason for his actions. The sale of ground rents was given as an instance in which the Association had no locus standi and could not interfere."*

It was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs Holt Tresco of Hollywood Lane on the death of her husband.

A new rating assessment scheme was due to be introduced in 1941. Discussions ensued about the water charges and sewerage rate. Properties in Dark lane had no sewer provision.

Further topics included allocation of funds for progressive parishes instead of parishes with interminable lanes, houses of certain types in certain areas for

which there is no bye-law, width of roads under the new town planning scheme, the possible combination of the parishes of Wythall, Alvechurch and Cofton to form an Urban District Council, the comparative sizes of parishes in the Bromsgrove Rural area, the allocation of funds in the parishes and the question of Rural district representation.

The agenda for the next meeting would include Objects of the Association, Building Fund, concession already obtained to be enumerated, water scheme, increased rateable value owing to extensions and alterations – sewers and water.

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Committee Meeting December 20th 1938

This was a lengthy meeting which agreed proposed changes to the Rules which were to be presented to a subsequent General Meeting held on Thursday 26th January 1939. In the event, the changes appear not have become effective until a General Meeting held on 13th June 1945.

Committee Meeting 3rd January 1939

Special General Meeting incorporating a General Meeting 26th January 1939

Committee Meeting 2nd February 1939

Committee Meeting 7th March 1939

Committee Meeting 6th April 1939

Committee Meeting May 4th 1939

Committee Meeting 21st August 1939

Committee Meeting 19th April 1940

Committee Meeting 7th May 1940

Committee Meeting 23rd May 1940

Committee Meeting 18th June 1940

Committee Meeting 4th July 1940

Committee Meeting 23rd September 1940

Committee Meeting 27th October 1940

Committee Meeting 9th November 1940

THE NEXT MEETING WAS NOT HELD UNTIL 1945

Note: Birmingham came under heavy bombing during the Blitz period Aug 1940 to April 1943

Committee Meeting 19th February 1945

Committee Meeting 19th March 1945

General Meeting 26th March 1945

“Councillor E. A. Turner J.P. in opening the meeting thanked members of the public for their attendance. He said the Association was formed in 1937 to stimulate interest in local Government and to provide means whereby electors could meet their local representatives on the district Council and on the Parish Council and it was strictly non-political and non-sectarian. As it appeared the War was now coming to an end it was intended to go forward with the Association and make it a power in Wythall, and if necessary to associate ourselves with the Residents Associations in Birmingham.”

NOTE: VE DAY WAS 8 MAY 1945

THE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1949

The half-yearly report of the Association lists the officers and committee members:

President:

Councillor E. A. Turner J.P.
Bedford House, Hampton Lane, Solihull

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr F. W. Morgan
127 Hollywood Lane

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. R. J. Munden
31 Silver Street
Wythall 2372

Vice-President:

Mr. H. F. Smith
22 Trueman's Heath Lane

Hon. Solicitor:
Donald E. Greenfield, Esq.

Hon. Auditor:
Mr. C. S. Yeomans
Silver Street

Committee:
Mr. C. E. Ticquet, 20 Dark Lane
Mr. A. J. Bridges, "Sherford" Trueman's Heath Lane
Mr. E. E. W. Brougham, 9 Wilmore Lane
Mr. A. Burns, 25 Silver Street
Mr. T. A. Elliott, "Fairways" Station Road
Mr. W. R. Gibson, Station Road
Mr. J. Rickard, Gorsey Lane
Mr. J. Gibson, Silver Street,
Mrs. Cosnett, 87 Hollywood Lane
Mr. and Mrs. H. Lubuck, Norfolk Nook, Hollywood Lane
Mr. R. J. Parker, 64 Lea Green Lane
Mr. J. Sunderland, 70 Lea Green Lane
Mr. H. Taylor, Shawhurst Lane
Miss P. Suffield, "Hedgerows" Station Road

Committee Meeting 15th December 1955

Minutes record that the old Rule Book was now invalid and a New Constitution would be drawn up.

Annual general meeting 24th March 1956

A proposal to change the title to "Wythall Residents' Association" was defeated. It was finally agreed to name the association "Wythall Ratepayers' and Residents' Association".

Annual general meeting 22nd March 1957

The New Constitution was adopted.

1957 -2012

The Association continued to hold regular committee meetings and AGMs and a full record of the minutes can be found in the archives.

APPENDICES

The War begins to affect life in Wythall:

La Vista, Silver Street, Wythall, Birmingham

Tel.
Wythall 5

28/8/39

Dear Mr Roddis,

Will you please place my resignation before the Committee, as my time is so occupied that I find I cannot carry on with this work

Yours sincerely,

Lillian Goldsmith

379 Highters Heath lane

29/8/39

**Mrs L Hood
310 Gospel lane, Olton 27**

Dear Mrs Hood,

My Committee will be glad if you can arrange for your four piece band to play at the Association's dance at Wythall Institute on Friday 29 September 1939 from 8.30 pm to 1 am.

Trusting that the present international tension will by then have lifted.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

G.A. R.

Hon. Sec.

Wythall Institute

10, Silver Street, Wythall

Aug 30th 39

Dear Mr Roddis,

In reply to your letter of Aug 29 regarding bookings the following I can Fix:-

Friday 15th Sept for Whist Drive

From Friday Oct 6th 39 to April 19th 1940 the Institute is taken every Friday night by the Wythall Red Cross unit except Friday Oct 27th and Friday Nov 24th taken by the ratepayers Association.

I have booked the following to the Association:

Saturday Dec 16th - Whist Drive

Saturday Dec 23rd - Party

Saturday Dec 30th - Dance

All bookings of whatever character are subject to the following conditions:

If an Emergency arises and the Institute is required by (a) The Military (b) as a First Aid Post (c) evacuation purposes in any form all existing bookings must be cancelled as the above have first call and a prior claim to the Institute which you will appreciate. As a matter of fact the Institute would be taken over irrespective of bookings.

If you wish to take the Institute for the above dates on this condition kindly let me know.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

C.S. Yeomans

Lottie Hoods "Rialto" Dance Band

310 Gospel lane, Olton, Birmingham 27

31st August 39

G. A.. Roddis Sec.

Dear Sir,

My band will be able to play at your dance at Wythall Institute on Friday 29 Sept 1939 from 8.30 pm to 1 am. Fee £3. Trusting everything will be settled down by then.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Lottie Hood

**Mrs R Hood
310, Gospel Lane,
Olton 27**

18/9/39

Dear Madam,

Proposed Dance 29 Sept 1939

I regret to inform you that in view of present circumstances the Association's activities have been suspended indefinitely.

It will not be possible to hold the dance in any case, as the W. Inst. has been commandeered for use as a First Aid Post.

With regret I remain

Yrs fly

G A Roddis

Hon. Sec

After the War life began to return to normal and these candidates were selected for the Parish Council elections in 1958:

Post War candidates for local election

Drakes Cross

Malcolm J. Gibson 129 Silver Street
Married 2 children
11 years in district
Rating Surveyor
War service – 6 years Infantry Mediterranean area
Member of Parish Council 6 years including Chairman 1 year.
Vice-Chairman of British Legion

Gerald Garne Wolstenholme
Age 33 Married with 2 children
9 years in the district
Occupation Sales Manager
President of Wythall Young Farmers Club and past Club leader for 5 years
and Chairman for 4 years.

James Walter Langford Kennerley
62 Silver Street, Wythall
Age 48
Married 3 children
Warehouseman
Resident 25 years
Ratepayers committee 6 years.

Marcus Lloyd Bowen
201 Station Road, Wythall
Age 58
Married with 1 daughter
Sales representative
Resident 20 years
Service – served in the Army 1st World War, Wythall Home Guard (5 years) in
Second World War was CSM and afterwards Training Officer.
Past Chairman of British Legion
Served on various local committees
Member of ratepayers

Stanley Frank Mattocks
Age 41
Married 2 children
Export representative
Newcomer to Wythall
Resident in Trinidad, B.W.I. before becoming resident in Wythall

Hollywood (AAA)

Daniel Frank Lyons
Age 33
Married 3 children 2 boys 1 girl
Clerk.
Newcomer to district
War service – in 6 Airborne Division. D-Day, Rhine Crossing.
Ex regular soldier
Currently serving in Parachute Engineers of 44 Airborne Brigade (T.A.)
Committee member of Ratepayers Association 2½ years.

Sidney Evans Williams
Age 46 years
Married 4 children
Resident 10 years in Wythall
Occupation Air Transport Company Manager.
9 years wartime naval service.
Governor Woodrush County Secondary School.
Secretary and Trustee Kingswood Chapel
Chairman Wythall Dramatics Society
Member of Executive Committee Wythall Ratepayers Association

Victor John Kendall
Age 45
Chartered Architect
Wartime service 4 years RAF
Married 2 children
Resided in Wythall 11 years.
Governor Woodrush County Secondary School
Member of Silver Street School Parent Teacher Association
Member of Redditch District Education Committee
Member of Executive Committee Wythall Community Association
Vice-Chairman Wythall Tennis Club
Member of Executive Committee Wythall Ratepayers and Residents Association

Edward Henry Pedvin
Age 39
Occupation- tea taster & blender
Married 3 children
Resident in district 11 years.
Served in Army for duration of war taking part in second front in Normandy.
Chairman Wythall tennis Club
Founder member and production manager Wythall Dramatic Society
Executive Committee member Wythall Community Association.
Committee member Ratepayers and Residents Association.
Active churchman, former lay preacher and Sunday School superintendent.

Mrs Barbara Joyce Clulee
'Fairfield' 142 Station Road, Wythall
Age 41
Housewife & shorthand typist
2 children girls aged 9 and 15
Resident in Wythall 5 years.
Member of Women's Institute and Wythall Dramatic Society
Member of ratepayers Committee for 3 years.
Active cyclist formerly Secretary of Cycling Club and Editor of club magazine.
Member of Silver Street County Primary School Parent Teachers Association

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Carnival Saturday July 23rd 1938

Part transcript of newspaper report Redditch Indicator July 30th 1938 with photograph.

WYTHALL, HOLLYWOOD AND DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

SUCCESSFUL FETE, HORSE JUMPING 7 BABY SHOW

"The first fete to be held under the auspices of the Wythall, Hollywood and Maypole Ratepayers Association took place on Saturday, in a field in Silver Street. It was very fully and enthusiastically supported and was in every respect successful, due in part, no doubt to the very favourable weather conditions, and for the 1,000 or more visitors who attended entertainment of good quantity was provided to suit the tastes of all.

At 2.30 pm the local Scouts, Guides and Brownies led the procession of those in fancy dress who paraded from the White Swan Hotel to the field to be judged by Mrs Turner. The opening ceremony was performed by Councillor Turner who was accompanied by Mrs Turner, to whom a bouquet of roses was presented by five-year old Miss June Goldsmith, and the Misses Turner.

Mr P. H. Rock (secretary of the Association) said it was his first duty on behalf of the Committee of the Ratepayers and Residents Association of Wythall and district, to welcome Councillor and Mrs E. A. Turner who had kindly consented, at the request of the committee to perform the opening ceremony of their first annual fete. Mrs Turner ably assisted by the Misses Turner, had kindly consented to judge the fancy dresses. Mrs Turner said it was a great pleasure to her to open the fete. The association, she understood, was formed only about six or seven months ago by a number of enthusiastic people in Wythall, who recognised that there was a growing need in the district for such an Association, not only for the benefit of rate-payers, but also for social purposes. During the six or seven months the Association had so established itself as to reach a total of nearly six hundred members. When they considered that out of a population of five thousand almost one eighth had become members, it emphasised to me the fact that it was an institution that was greatly desired and needed.

It had so inspired the committee of the Association that they had organised the fete that day to encourage the people of Wythall, and get them together to show what the Association proposed to do. There was also a big programme of work ahead, the object being to develop the district which was so important and was rapidly growing from a rural to an urban district. Social needs would be catered for in and by the district itself. It had been necessary for the Association to look ahead and see whether they could not have these things provided and to encourage and obtain, under their banner, playing fields, bowling green and tennis courts, and a large room which could be used for the social activities and for the meetings which were necessary to the Association. She sincerely and warmly thanked the helpers of the Association for the great work they had done in such a short space of time. It spoke well for the future that one eighth of the population of the district had joined the Association. She had much pleasure in declaring the fete open, and hoped they would all spend freely, and enjoy themselves, thus helping to provide for their enjoyment in the future. Mrs Turner's speech was greeted with warm applause and the visitors then dispersed to try their luck at the various side shows. Among the many attractions was a display of sword and folk dancing by the Wythall Guides and Brownies, under the leadership of Captain Kynnersley and Miss M. Rouse. Mrs M. Mountford, who had instructed the children, in their dancing, was also present and kept them keyed up to a high standard of skill.

After tea which was served in a marquee on the field, a horse jumping display attracted a large audience and provided capital entertainment. The winners of the various events were:"

The article goes on to list the winners and report on other matters. A baby show was held at the Silver Street schools and judged by Dr Acheson aided by Nurse Denny and Miss Pearce. The stalls included sweets & cigarettes, home-made cakes, shilling in the bath, kill the rat, giant skee ball and darts, coconut shies, magic wheel, balloon race, ladies' ankle competition, bowling for live pig, ninepins, letter box, tug-of-war, beans in bottle, live fowl, hoopla, coin spinning, ring-in-the-rod, horse gymkhana, fancy dress and a conjuring display. Loud speakers and electrical equipment were provided by Messrs. Scarr & Co, Kings Heath.

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Carnival Saturday July 8th 1939

Part transcript of newspaper report Redditch Indicator July 15th 1939 with photograph.

WYTHALL RATEPAYERS UNDETERRED BY RAIN

CARNIVAL HELD IN SPITE OF TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR

“It was particularly unfortunate that the Wythall, Hollywood, Maypole & District Ratepayers Association should have chosen the wettest day of the year for their annual carnival on Saturday, yet in spite of a downpour that washed out practically every other outdoor event in the district they carried on in a spirit of cheerful optimism and in the circumstances made a fair success of the event. If the ratepayers of Wythall possess two qualities more than any other they are enterprise and ambition. No effort had been spared to make the carnival the outstanding event of the year, as it would undoubtedly have been but for the disastrous weather.

Many months had been spent in preparations, and an ambitious programme had been planned. In spite of the weather the day's proceedings were carried through practically as arranged, the only item abandoned being a tug-of-war between the RAF Balloon Barrage Station (Wythall) and a team representing Wythall.

The Carnival was organised primarily to raise money for the erection of a communal hall – an amenity that is now urgently needed in a large and rapidly growing district. Arrangements for the Carnival were made by a large and enthusiastic committee of residents headed by Councillor E. A. Turner and ably supported by Mr. G. A. Roddis as honorary secretary and Mr F. W. Morgan, honorary treasurer. The management of the various events was undertaken by small sub-committees.

It was largely owing to the kindness of Mr James Corbett, of Hollywood Farm, that the programme was carried through without any serious curtailment. He allowed the use of barns and other buildings for the holding of the dog show and the darts competition.

CARNIVAL QUEEN CROWNED

No carnival would be complete without a queen, and no carnival could have had a more charming queen than Miss Joan Adams, the 19 years old daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Adams of Highter's Heath Lane, Wythall, who was attended by four maids of honour – Misses Hazel Bragg, Dorothy Harrison, Jeanne Moore and Olive Viner.

The Carnival was declared open by Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, K.B.E. (M.P. for the Kidderminster Division), and immediately afterwards the Carnival Queen was crowned by Lady Wardlaw-Milne. Owing to the heavy downpour of rain this pleasing ceremony took place in the large marquee which had been erected as a refreshment tent. Councillor E. A. Turner presided and among those on the platform in addition to Sir John and Lady Wardlaw-Milne were Messrs G. A. Roddis (honorary secretary), J. H. Cook, W. Simmons, T. Twigg, A. C. Adams, F. W. Morgan, E. Levy, A. J. Bridges, O. V. Bragg, H. F. Smith, J. Sunderland and G. P. Goldsmith (representing the Unionist Association).

In welcoming Sir John and Lady Wardlaw-Milne to Wythall, Councillor Turner remarked that Wythall was rapidly growing into an urban district. Ten years

ago it had a population of only 1,000 and today it had nearly 5,000. He was glad that in spite of the demands of political work at this critical time, Sir John had found time to visit Wythall Carnival, and on behalf of the residents of the district he wished to thank Sir John for his presence.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT AT WYTHALL

Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, in declaring the carnival open, said he was extremely sorry that the weather was so unpropitious but he was glad to find that Wythall was “carrying on” in spite of the handicap. That was the right spirit. He was happy to be present because he was greatly interested in the movement which the Carnival represented. He believed that the people of this country did not take enough interest in local government matters. Local government was important, and perhaps more important than Parliamentary matter, because it affected the lives of the people more closely. He was glad to know that they were working with the commendable object of a hall where they could hold social gatherings and discuss local affairs was a project which he had very much at heart, and he wished them every success in their enterprise. The carnival itself must have entailed a tremendous amount of work and everyone who had taken a share in it was to be complimented. He hoped that in spite of the rain their efforts would be rewarded with success and he had pleasure in declaring it open.”

The article then continues to report the presentation of flowers to the guest and the Carnival Queen and to report the various events and winners of the Baby Show, Dogs’ day, Darts Competition and The Horse Gymkhana. There were other attractions and sideshows including cake competition, refreshments, sweets & tobacco, confectionery, balloon race, coin game, coconut shy, bowling for pig, breaking up the happy home, skee ball, rabbit skin game, Aunt Sally, skittles, hoopla, goldfish, rifle range and letter box.

Musical selections were played by the King’s Heath Adult School Band under the conductorship of Mr Harry Price.

Late in the afternoon the rain ceased after an almost continuous downpour since early morning and there was an influx of visitors. There was evening entertainment in the marquee with a magic show given by three members of the British Magical Society – Messrs Gilbert Wells, Henri de Seevah and Harold Hall.

The article is accompanied by two photographs (credited to Lashbrook of Northfield) showing the Carnival Queen and dignitaries and the Committee responsible for the carnival.

It should be noted that the Member of Parliament representing the Wythall area was Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, K.B.E. (M.P. for the Kidderminster Division). He served from 1922 to 1945 and was an ultra right wing Conservative who had attempted to force Winston Churchill out of office in 1942 and to appoint the Duke of Gloucester as Head of the Armed Forces. He had also called for free education to be abolished during the early 1930’s.

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Members of Parliament for Wythall 1937 - 2012

Kidderminster Constituency

1922 – 45 Sir John Wardlaw-Milne (Con)
1945 -50 Louis Tolley (Lab)

Bromsgrove Constituency

1950 – 1955 Sir Michael Higgs (Con)
1955 – 1971 James Dance (Con)
1971 – 1974 Terry Davis (Lab)

Bromsgrove & Redditch Constituency

1974 – 1983 Hal Miller (Con)

Bromsgrove Constituency

1983 – 92 Sir Hal Miler (Con)
1992 - 97 Roy Thomason (Con)
1997 – 2010 Julie Kirkbride (Con)
2010 - Sajid Javid (Con)