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West Sussex County Times 8th Dec 1917

Y.M.C.A. HUT WEEK OPENING OF THE LINDENS

There was a large gathering of workers and friends at The Lindens, North Street, on Thursday, for the formal opening of the new headquarters of the Y.M.C.A. at Horsham. Mrs E D L Harvey performed the opening ceremony. She said she trusted it would be a great comfort to the troops passing through. She wished it every blessing, and the success it thoroughly deserved. After the workers, grouped at the entrance of the building, had been photographed, an adjournment had been made to the Town Hall for the distribution of the medals and certificates. Here, Mr Duncan Fraser, who presided, spoke of the tremendous work which the Association carried on and said they were to be congratulated upon the help they were able to secure ever since help became necessary.

Mr W J Hart, the Local Secretary, said he trusted that the Lindens would prove a good friend to the young men of Horsham, and that the work done there would be as good as that done in the past, although on a greater scale (applause).

Col. Hamilton Cox then presented medals to the following for services at Roffey Camp and the Carfax:-

Mesdames Biram, Charlton, P G Eager, Grinstead, Jarratt, Jukes, Mercer, J Morrin, Millais, Vinall, Tylden Wright, Hannay, Hoare, Bristed, D Bryce, Ansell, Allen, H Pratt, A J Smith, Targett, Tomkins, Lady Loder, Rev A Waugh, Misses Parker, F White, Way, Beech, Butcher, Buck, B Cramp, E Cramp, M Cook, L Cook, Collyer, Phyllis Collins, D Charman, Cooper, Faux, Gates, Jardine, Kenyon, Marlen, Mercer, Dench, A Potter, E Potter, Rowland, Mabel Redford, Maud Redford, Alice Rowland, Rowe, Kitty Scott, Stevens, B Neville, E Neville, Annie Tate, Ogilvie,

Messrs. A Peirce, I Morrie, W H Gentle, Daniel Farmer, A F Lower, G Lewis, David Bryce, Stanley Hunt, G Sharp, W J Powell and A J Mercer.

Amidst prolonged applause, Mrs E D L Harvey was presented with a medal and certificate for special services in connection with Hut Week, and also a beautiful bouquet.

Mr Shirley Davies the energetic organiser, said he found Horsham a live wire – not many local associations in the country could be called that. It was the magnificent body of workers gathered round the old association at Horsham that had made it what it was (applause). Crawley and Ifield had done magnificently: Dr Matthews' figures to date were £ 365.14s.9d (applause). They were going all right for £1,500 in the Division; and he was sure the message he was taking to Pulborough would prove a great incentive there.

Mrs Harvey said she felt certain the new headquarters would prove of inestimable value to those soldiers who had the opportunity to make use of it. It gave them the chance of finding rest, recreation and a good deal of practical help in many ways of which they were so often in need. They were wishing success to a work that would go on year after year. Thanks were accorded to Col. Hamilton Cox, and the proceedings closed with prayer offered by the Rev. Adam Waugh.

WHIST DRIVE

On Thursday night a most successful Whist Drive was held at the Albion Hall. Over 240 tickets had been sold, and the competition had been keen. The M.C's were Messrs J Rice and E T Lane, and a prompt start was effected. During the interval there were songs by Bombardier F G Roberts and Miss Edith Potter, R A M, and recitations by Gunner Garrett. Miss Cooper, a prominent Y.M.C.A. worker, distributed the prizes as follows:-

Ladies. 1st Mrs J W Walker, 190; 2nd Miss Doris Evershed 179; Hidden No 145; Miss Cook, after cutting with Miss Reynolds, Miss Hanley, Mrs Nye and Mrs Evershed). "Booby" Miss G A Tyler 126.

Gentleman. 1st Private E Purkiss (also the khaki prize) 181; and Mr J Emmett 178. Hidden No 148, Mr G Evershed (after cutting with Sergt Barker, Miss Clark, Miss Smith, and Mr A E Agate). "Booby" Mr F E Sendell 136.

Hearty thanks were accorded, on the proposition of Mr Shirley Davis, to Mrs C Rowland, Mrs Pargett, and the lady workers who arranged the "drive"; to the artistes; and to Messrs J Rise and E P Lane. An enjoyable evening closed with the National Anthem.

Well over £1,200 had been secured by yesterday morning. The concert produced about £38, and the Town Band on Sunday evening collected £1.0s.3d.

CONCERT AT HORSHAM

As had been anticipated, the concert arranged by the Countess of Annesley, and Mrs Latilla for Tuesday evening at the Kings Head, in aid of the Y.M.C.A. "Hut Week" funds was a delightful musical treat. The lady vocal soloists were: Miss Kate Anderson and Miss Mabel Corran, who, in response to the audience's reception of songs down on the programme, delightfully rendered additional ones and were heard together in Offenbach's pleasing baccarolle from "Tales of Hoffman". Miss D Chart (Gold Medallist) of the London Academy of Music, gave a scene from Shakespeare's "As You Like it", differentiating the characters of "The Prince", Rosalind and Celia in really mastery fashion for so young a reciter, and according another short piece ("My John") in response to recall. Captain Wickens fine voice gave great pleasure in the four (in place of two) songs enthusiastically exacted from him. Of the songs contributed by Mr P Byrne, Kipling's "Sea Fever" appealed much, and caused him to give the "West Country" dialect song. Bombardier F G Roberts is an old favourite in Horsham, so much so that the delivery of no less than four consecutive "Old Furniture" songs in the first part of the programme did not content, and he had to sing "The Old Grey Mare" in addition. Mr Wheeler's representation of a Village Club night, and a most amusing dance and song in costume, followed by a clever performance on the "mouth organ", caused great merriment. Mr Albert E Bevan sympathetically and ably accompanied in all but two instances.

Towards the close Captain Hamilton Cox, the Commandant at Roffey Siege School, expressed thanks on behalf of the soldiers at Roffey, at home generally, and with the Forces abroad to the Y.M.C.A. for the great work they were carrying on. Many, he said, did not really know how much was being done. They were most grateful to Mrs Latilla, who was "wonderful" in doing this kind of thing, and to Lady Annesly for organising the concert. He mentioned that the room was lent without charge – in fact, there were no expenses at all. It was indeed splendid that so much should be done, and the soldiers were most appreciative (applause).

PROGRAMME

Songs, "The Rebel" and "Son of Mine" (Wallace), (encored), Bombardier F G Roberts; song, "Habernara" (from Carmen", Bizet). Miss Mabel Corran; song, "Invictus", Mr Patrick Byrne; recital from Shakespeare's "As You Like It" (encore "My John"). Miss D Chart ; song "Captain Wickins"; "The Jewel Song" (from Gounods "Faust" (encored). Miss Kate Anderson (wife of Mr Albert E Bevan); recital a "Village Club Night" Mr Frank Wheeler; duet, "Barcarolle" (Tales of Hoffman), Miss Kate Anderson and Miss Mabel Corran ; songs, "Sea Fever" and West Country folk song . Mr P Byrne; song, "The Glory of The Sea" (encored, coon song) Miss Mabel Corran; four songs from "Old Furniture"; "Under The Hammer", "Old Furniture", "The Old Cradle", and "The Old Spinet" (encore) "Old Grey Mare", Bombardier F G Roberts; songs "A Requiem" (Albert E Bevan), by request, and "Come Happy Winds" (T F Morris), Miss Kate Anderson; two songs from "The Fringes of the Fleet", "Submarines" and "The Sweepers" (words by Rudyard Kipling and music by E Elgar). Capt. Wickins; song and dance (in costume) , Mr Frank Wheeler; "God Save The King".

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