

The Institute, The Green, Nettleham.



Nettleham Institute and Coffee Tea room was built by a most generous friend of Nettleham, Herbert James Torr of Riseholme Hall, Riseholme, (a mile away) in 1894 at a reported cost of £1,000. It was built by W.M.Bailey and Thomas Pask.

It is now the home of a firm of solicitors and an electronics company. Attached is All Saints Church Office, a hairdresser, a photographer, and a place for persons with learning difficulties. It is also stated that the ghost of a 7-year-old boy called Paul visits one of the premises, but he is a friendly ghost.

The attached letter from Mr Torr states:

June 1. 1894
RISEHOLME HALL.
NEAR LINCOLN.

To the Chairman
Riseholme Hall
of the Provisional Committee
of the Nettleham Institute

Dear Sir,

In entrusting this Institute
to the care of your Committee and
their successors my wish is that it
shall not be regarded as a Public
Hall open to all comers, but that
it shall be used primarily for and by
the inhabitants of Nettleham and
Riseholme Parishes in such ways
as the Committee for the time being

June 1 1894 Riseholme Hall, Near Lincoln,

To the Chairman Riseholme Hall of the provisional Committee,
Of the Nettleham Institute.

Dear Sir,

In intrusting this Institute to the care of your committee and their successors my wish is that it shall not be regarded as a Public Hall open to all comers, but that it shall be used specifically for and by the inhabitants of Nettleham and Riseholme Parishes in such ways as the Committee for the time being

shall judge to be for their advantage. The only instruction I desire to place on its use is that no religious services shall be held in it: but this restriction shall not exclude 'Anniversary teas' 'Choir teas' & other similar social gatherings nor the ... Bible Classes which have been held in connection with the ... Institute. I have asked your Committee to act until November 1, when I propose that a Committee of twelve shall take their place, and be elected annually half by the ^{Quarterly} ~~monthly~~ members & half by the annual members. I do not propose legally to convey the Institute to any trustees but instead to lend it, as it were, each year rent free to the Committee who I hope will be able to keep it in good repair & discharge all rates and taxes periodicaly.

Trusting you to convey to the Committee my hearty thanks for the cordial cooperation & valuable help they are so kindly giving. Believe me
Yours truly
Robert J. Torr.

shall judge to be for their advantage. The only instruction I desire to place on its use is that no religious services shall be held in it: but this restriction shall not exclude 'Anniversary teas' 'Choir teas' & other similar social gatherings nor the ... Bible Classes which have been held in connection with the ... Institute. I have asked your committee to act until November 1, when I

propose that a Committee of twelve shall take their place and be elected annually half by the quarterly members & half by the annual members.

I do not Legally to convey the Institute to any trustees but instead to lend it, as it were, each year rent free to the Committee who I hope will be able to keep it in good repair & discharge all rates and taxes levied on it.

Asking you to convey to the Committee my hearty thanks for the cordial cooperation & valuable help they are so kindly giving. Believe me

Herbert J. Torr.

There was a grand opening of the Institute, and it is said that 500 persons sat down for tea and entertainment. A notice board was placed near the door as follows:



This photograph is believed to have been taken shortly after The Institute opened.



Front row: child with finger in his mouth and wearing striped trousers is Harry Borman.
The boy behind to his right is Bill Borman.
The Vicar is Herbert Larken.

In the building a caretaker living room was to the right of the door. The room above was the caretaker's bedroom with balcony over the bay to the living room. It was a fenced balcony with flagpole.

To the left of the door was the library. Down a passage were the stairs with cupboard underneath. (It is believed these are the original stairs.)



A year after opening the Parish Council rented 'The Council Room' for £2.00 a year rent, as requested by the then Welton District Council, until 1973.

The right of the door became the infant's schoolroom in 1878, with stove in the middle. A new school was built in 1900 (now the small hall in the old school).

Outside was a small area of hardstanding then grass. Toilets were across the open space.

The big room at the back was the dance/function room, whilst out the back was a shooting range. It is said that in 1908 there was a small shooting range inside the building, presumably where the dance/function room was.

Mr Torr was not pleased with the care taken by the Managing Committee and closed the Institute until 1922 when he handed it over to the Church.

During the time of the Institute before closing in 1973 it had an 'Evening' Institute (one of the first actions taken) and held a doctor's surgery by Dr Deane. Belgian refugees were billeted there during WW1. There were wedding receptions, plays, films, dancing and a garden show. Nurse Heath ran a Sunday School. **It was used for an overflow classroom of the Old School in the early fifties until a new school was built in 1956. Judy Lawrence recalls being in a class there.**

Many of the Nettleham villagers can still recall dances and concerts and attending them in what was then called 'The Church Institute',

Plans to turn the Institute into a Public House in 1973 were turned down, and it became clear in September of that year that the premises still belonged to the Church. The Diocesan Trust was involved in the sale of the premises to the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. It was in their hands until it was sold privately in 1990.