

Community Centres

1960s

The Institute
Old Scholars Club

The Institute

Situation – rear of confectioners shop next to International in The Square.

In front was the Vergers house – this now the confectioners shop.

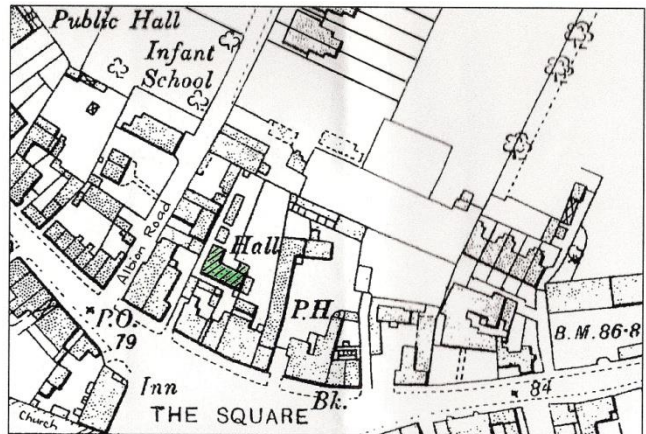
Institute reached by a narrow passage by the side of the Vergers house.

Opened 1878 – mainly through the perseverance of Major Bell and Rev Alcock, Vicar. It was a centre of public meetings, concerts, social gatherings.

Had a library, reading room, a gym etc. Before War – Technical classes held there and once was used as the Infants' School.

Knott Lodge of Odd Fellows formed 1881 held meetings there. They had a struggling existence. In 1906 Trustees offered it to the Parish Council but there were legal difficulties. In 1950's property was sold by Trustees – it had been mortgaged. Now Trustees have £452 in Consuls

Income for any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of Birchington that is not provided for out of rates.



Old Scholars Club

In Park Lane. Formed about 1928 on land given by Major Powell Cotton.

Old Boys of Park Lane School built Club under direction of Mr Laming, who was the Headmaster. For many years was a youth club.

Difficulties arose before and after war – financial. Later used by Birchington Silver Band.

In a move for the Charity Commission to establish a scheme to regulate the Charity.

