

**BIRCHINGTON OLD SCHOLARS' CLUB  
15 PARK LANE, BIRCHINGTON**

**A short history of the Club**

Founder and Honorary Life Member – Charles Laming Esq  
February 1949

The land on which the Club building stands was purchased in October 1926 by the Committee of Management, as they stood at that time. Since that date, the club building was erected for the purposes of the Birchington Old Scholars' Club. The cost and expense for this was paid for out of moneys provided by the Committee.

At no time was it the intention or desire of the Founder and the Committee of Management that the building should become a Public Hall.

The Management of the Club is vested in the Managing Committee and Trustees for the time being. The Trustees act on the direction of a resolution of the Committee of Management.

For a number of years, until 1936, the Club was carried on under the direction of its Founder, but owing to lack of financial support and the ever-changing conditions, the Club almost ceased to exist.

In 1937 and subsequent years, many efforts were made to re-establish the Club in accordance with its original traditions, but once again, owing to lack of members and the increasing liabilities, the consequent financial position caused grave anxiety to the Committee of Management. They found it necessary to give careful consideration to all questions of policy concerning the future of the Club.

During the war years, the Club premises were used for various purposes, other than those for which it was originally intended. This was done with the object of raising sufficient funds to clear all outstanding liabilities and also to create a reserve fund against future contingencies.

In accordance with this decision, in 1947 the Committee accepted the Requisition Order issued in respect of the premises by the Margate Corporation. (The building was then converted into a bungalow, during an acute housing shortage after the war.)

It is hoped that it may be possible in the future to re-open the Club in the true sense of the word, in order that it may fulfil the objects of its Founder. It must be made clear however that the Club premises are not a Public Hall or Meeting Place.

F.C. Rolfe, Hon. Secretary to the Management Committee