

Local
welfare office

Spit up enthusiasm
Birichen Library and Social Club.

1897

Formerly known as the Carnegie Library, Birichen, this Institution, consisting of a one-roomed building, rented from Capt. Hawker of Birichen at a nominal rent, was at one time used as a school, but was formed into a Library and Reading-Room about 1895 under the management of a committee composed of local residents. Owing to the generosity of the late Dr. Andrew Carnegie, Dr. Hew Morrison, Messrs J. P. Coats, Hamilton-Bruce, and others, it was furnished with a number of books, its present stock being over 1,000 volumes.

From 1898 onwards it continued to be known as the Carnegie Library in honour of Dr. Andrew Carnegie, who, in addition to his other bequests, was up to the date of his death, kind enough to give an annual contribution of £10 towards its support.

After Dr. Carnegie's death, and in response to an appeal by the then Management Committee, a further donation of £10 was received from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust in 1923, but it was then intimated that no further assistance from this source was to be expected.

Shortly after this the Building began to fall into a state of disrepair, and owing to lack of funds was only open one night in the week.

In 1924 a new Committee of younger men was appointed, and by promoting entertainments, etc., this Committee managed to raise sufficient funds to have the plaster work of the Building repaired, the walls distempered, and the woodwork painted. They also arranged to have the Building open nightly every week day.

In the following year a concrete floor was laid and other small improvements made at a cost of £14. In 1927, by promoting a Free Gift Scheme, the Committee were fortunate in raising further funds which were devoted to providing seating accommodation at a cost of £16. In the same year, and with a view to making the Institution more attractive, they added a small second-hand billiard table, air rifles and draught boards to its equipment. The Institution was in that year re-named "The Birichen Library and Social Club."

Last year a sum of £10 was spent in installing new windows, and in order to further improve the amenities of the Building the Committee are anxious to erect an Ante-room and replace the present concrete floor by a wooden one. For this purpose it is estimated a sum of £50 to £70 will be required.

The Institution has proved a great boon to the inhabitants of this rural district, more especially to the younger people, many of whom are ex-servicemen and take a keen interest in the social life of the community.

It is hoped to raise the necessary funds by means of a Free Gift Scheme, entertainments, etc., and by the help of donations in money or in kind from generous friends, far and near.

Any such donations, however small, will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by us.

In name of the Committee.

DONALD MURRAY, President.

EBEN MACLEAN, Hon. Secretary.