

raised from the Fete, £30 from the Jumble Sale, £43 from Whist Drives and £10 from the Flower Show. The Flower Show had been adversely affected by very bad weather.

With the necessary funds available, the Association sought tenders for the build. Tenders were received from six of the invited contractors and the contract for the build was given to Hopes of Whitchurch. There is no record of the progress of the actual building but a local student artist, Viv Bevan drew a sketch of the building site when the shell of the hall had been constructed.



Viv Bevan's sketch of the site

The Memorial Hall was ready for use by September 1957. The various activities associated with the Hall included archery, badminton, bridge, floral art, Gardeners Club, Old Time Dancing, The Drama Group, Over 30s Club and a Youth Group. Even in those days they had problems finding a Youth Leader and the Group was failing after a couple of years.

It was not until the June of the following year that the Rhiwbina Memorial Hall was formally dedicated at an Official Opening and Dedication Service, held on Friday 13th June 1958. A plaque commemorating the event was unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Countess Mountbatten of

Burma. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Whitchurch, the Rev. Emrys Rees and the Pastor of Rhiwbina Baptist Church, the Rev. Ieuan Thomas. The singing was led by the choir of the Rhiwbina Townswomen's Guild.

Plans were drawn up by Veryard and Partners in 1968 to extend the Hall with a new entrance, kitchen and a smaller hall at a cost of £14,400. This came into fruition in 1971 at a total cost of £15,000, funded by Memorial Association fundraising activities and Grant Aid. Mr Joe Veryard, the architect of the extension died

before the extension was opened and the lesser hall is now known as 'The Veryard Room' in his memory.

During the early 1970s, the Rhiwbina Garden Village Ltd. was being wound up and the freeholds of all the Garden Village homes were given to the occupants. This included the Memorial Hall, and the Memorial Hall and Community Association now owns the land and building freehold.

To celebrate its 50th Anniversary, the Memorial Hall and Community Association held a Service of Rededication on Friday 13th June 2008. A commemoration plaque was unveiled by the Rt. Hon Rhodri Morgan, First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government, assisted by the Rt. Hon. Kate Lloyd, the Lord Mayor of the City and County of Cardiff. The Service was conducted by The Reverend Andrew James, Vicar of Rhiwbina, Reverend Phil Dunning, Minister of Bethany Baptist Church and the Reverend Ken Graham, Minister (retired) of Beulah United Reform Church. The Service was followed by a concert given by the Whitchurch Male Choir and the Rhiwbina Amateur Theatrical Society. A collection in aid of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association raised well over £400.

Below: Memorial Hall representatives receiving a certificate from the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Fund in recognition of the collection at the Rededication Service



Below: Rhodri Morgan and the Lord Mayor unveiling a commemorative plaque at the Rededication Service on Friday 13th June 08. Also, in the photo are Ivan Gibson and Mavis Prentice

