CRICK EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB – The First Century

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Executive Summary

The popularly held view is that the Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club was founded in 1923 and came to occupy its present location in 1926. However, evidence would suggest otherwise.

The Club was formed by Dr Smith on his return in late 1919 from service as a Captain in the Royal Medical Corps. Dr Smith was President of the Club from its foundation until his death in 1952. Members first met in an outbuilding of his family home, Queen House, in Lauds Road. There was space for about 50 men.

The Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club was recognised by the British Legion as a constituted branch in October 1920. This could be said to be the formal foundation date, even though members would have met before then.

Newspaper articles suggest discussions were ongoing as early as 1920 about moving to the Boys' School, their present location, and that they may have started to use it by 1921. The building had been vacated by 1918 as it was unused and derelict. The exact terms of the occupancy are not known but may have been at a peppercorn rent. It took until 1952 for the building to be legally conveyed to Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Unfortunately, there appear to be no minutes or documentation at the Club to verify the foundation or building occupancy. However, the dates seem to be realistic given that 100 plus soldiers from Crick returned in 1919. There was considerable good will within the community, Church and Parish Council for the formation of a club for these ex-servicemen. After the horrors of war, there was a need to provide a social refuge, a space offering inexpensive ales, a friendly atmosphere and some local entertainment.

Electricity and lighting were not installed in the building until the mid-1930s and heating was provided by a "pot" coal fired stove similar to the ones in St Margaret's church. The stove was in the main room near where the bar is today. It is said that there was quite an "atmosphere" in the room when the coal fired stove was burning and the men were smoking their cigarettes and pipes! There was a billiard table and piano for entertainment together with seating and tables.

Up to World War 11 it remained a men-only club. Dogs were permitted but women had to wait until the 1950s. This was the start of a great social change; the club has responded accordingly over time by opening up to women, then families.

As the club grew in membership, (there were 400-odd members in 1971), it was necessary to expand. During 1965 there was major internal work to provide a games area and toilets. The games included darts, billiards, pool and skittles and members, both men and women, took part in local league matches. These and other social activities, such as bingo, which was played in the very early days of the club, continue today. For over 30 years there has been a screen showing all major sporting events.

From 1968 to 1996 there was a house available for the steward,

Dr Smith, founder and President

Originally the Club was affiliated with the British Legion. At some time, it changed to be affiliated with Working Men's Clubs. Today, the Club owns the land and buildings, is incorporated as a private limited company run by its members and is independent of any affiliations other than its continued support of the Royal British Legion.

The building is Grade 2 listed and is in a village conservation area.

Obviously there have been ups and downs. In 1981 the Club borrowed £3,500 from Allied Breweries. One of the conditions of the loan was that the Club sold Ansell's Special Draught Bitter, Ansell's Draught Mild and Skol Lager. What is not known is why the loan was necessary. However, a wider range of ales are sold today.

Today Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club has about 800 members from Crick, surrounding villages and visitors. The club maintains the ethos of its founders, aiming 'to provide a comfortable social refuge, offering inexpensive ales, local entertainment and a friendly atmosphere'. It now serves the local community and visitors.

On 17th June 2023 the Club celebrates over a century of contributing to the community and Ex-Servicemen.

TIMELINE

	1721	There had been a school by the Church gate since at least 1721
	1846	A School Trust was established to purchase land and build the Girls' and Infants' School
May	1846	The School Trust purchased the Boys' School building from the Rugby Guardians of the Poor
July	1847	Further land was bought to increase the Boys' School plot to its present size and the school was re-built
	1914	Start of World War 2
	1918	Transfer of pupils to new state primary school. Girls' and Infants' building (now known as the Old School) and the Boys' School (now known as the Club) were left unoccupied. The Girls' and Infants' School became the Village Hall until the present Village Hall was built in 1959
	1919	General de-mobilisation of military and return of men to Crick
Oct	1920	Club formed with premises at Lauds Road. Member DSSA.
	1920	Discussion with Schools' Trustees about use of Boys' School
July	1921	Possible move to Boys' School in Church Street
	1939	Start of World War 2
	1945	End of World War 2
	1950	Women admitted after being vetted by the committee
	1952	Conveyance from School Trustees to Club
	1965	Extension added – games room with full size billiards table, bar and toilets.
	1968	15 Church Street purchased as steward's house
	1987	Grade 2 building listing
	1996	15 Church Street sold
Dec	2013	Incorporated as a private limited company for the business of a licensed club.
	2020	Exterior refurbishment.
June	2023	Celebrations of over a century of contributing to the community

1. Men went to War

106 Crick men[1] went to serve the country in World War 1. That was out of 319 men in a village of 683 adults[2]. Or to put it another way, one third of the adult males living in Crick left to serve in World War 1. Today, this reduction of the male population would be regarded as exceptional but it happened in many of the nearby villages. For many families the departure of their male-folk would have been a financial hardship, as the men were the main wage earners. Married women did not work but were fulltime family careers. The men's departure would also be felt by the community which had been largely self-reliant for centuries – everyone knew everyone else and they all had a role to play. Life in Crick would change and adapt.

Bert Howkins went to war and did not return

Prior to World War 1, Crick was an agricultural community. The growing nearby industrial town of Rugby or indeed Coventry, Leicester or Northampton had not yet drawn people away from a rural life that had existed for centuries. The village was about a quarter of the size it is today. There was no mains water, electricity or telephone. Heating was from coal fires and lighting by candle or paraffin lamp. Those who left to serve their country would return to this rural environment.

However, not all those who went to serve were agricultural or manual workers. There were a few from the gently or land-owning fraternity, one such was JR Haswell[4], a substantial Crick land owner, who joined up as a motorcycle dispatch rider. However, land owners and workers alike were all effected physically and mentally by their wartime service

.

Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club Roll of Honour listing all those who left for service in World War 1 and those who gave their lives

Fortunately for Crick, of those 106 who left, 93 returned. Unfortunately, a further two men died from their war injuries within a couple of years of their return[3]. The names of all those who sacrificed their lives in service of the country are recorded on the War Memorial in the Churchyard, erected in 1920. There is also a record of the names on the Roll of Honour Board in the Club as well as on memorial tablets in Crick Primary School and St Margaret's Church. Notably, all of those who gave their lives were from the ranks of ordinary non-commissioned soldiers. It is with this background in mind that one can understand that when the men began to return home to Crick in 1919, not only were they effected by their experience at war, which in many cases was a brutal shock, but they were returning to a different environment to the one they had left. It did not help that this was also a time of high unemployment and financial hardship.

The situation did not go unrecognised**.** As servicemen were discharged from duty, the government licenced ex-servicemen to form groups as branches of 'Discharged Soldiers & Sailors Association (DSSA)'. Crick formed a DSSA branch. Two months later and the DSSA was amalgamated into the British Legion, or as we know it now the Royal British Legion.

William Warland went to war and returned. He was a member of the Ex-Servicemen's Club

2. The Formation of Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club

The board at the entrance to the Club which states that the Club's foundation was 1923 and occupation of current premises was 1926. I can find no evidence to support either of these dates.

At the time of the unveiling of the War Memorial[5] on 31 October 1920 it was reported that Crick had formed and registered a DSSA branch. Registration with the DSSA was reported to have been granted and was in "full swig" by January 1921[6]. By May 1921the Ex-Servicemen's Club was reported[8] to have organised an open-air dance organised held in Dr Smith's garden. The report also confirmed that the Club was affiliated to the newly formed British Legion. The British Legion incorporated several ex-servicemen's organisations, including the DSSA, in May 1921. The Rugby Advertiser of 28 October 1921 states that the branch had its foundation 'a year ago'.

In the Committee Room at the Club, I found a mounted and framed page from a Northampton newspaper[7] dated July 1971 headed Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club with the headline "Proud of 50 years social service". The article reports, "*The Club was formed in 1921 by the late Dr A.G.L. Smith on his return from service in the Royal Army Medical Corps*". It is possible that this date is incorrect by a year as Dr Smith returned to Crick in early 1920.

Dr A.G.L. Smith, founding President of Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club

Together this evidence suggests the Club was ***formally founded in October 1920***. However, it has to be assumed that meetings must have been held prior to October to agree to form a club and then form a committee. While there is no evidence to say when the decommissioned men first gathered together formally, it had to be at least in early 1920 when Dr Smith returned to Crick. These early meetings were held in the out-buildings of his home at Queen House in Lauds Road. There was sufficient space for about 50 men to meet.

Dr Smith joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1916, seeing service in France and Germany. He achieved

the rank of Captain. He returned to Crick as the village doctor.

From his experience he was greatly concerned about the welfare of the ex-soldiers and provided them with space and an opportunity to meet and share each other's experiences.

From the beginning the Club aimed to provide a social refuge, offering inexpensive ales, a friendly atmosphere and some local entertainment. A pint of beer would have cost about 5d (£0.02) and 20 cigarettes about 8d (£0.03).

One example of local entertainment was in May 1921[8] when an open-air dance with music by Crick's Excelsior Band was organised by the Ex-Serviceman's Club in Dr Smith's garden.

Lauds Road circa 1915. Queen's House is in the centre of the picture. To the left of the row of cottages is the meeting room used by the ex-servicemen. Later it would be Dr Smith's surgery.

In these formative days, Dr Smith was President of the Club and remained so until his death in 1952. Committee members[9] were Mr W Kinchin (secretary), Mr W Warland (treasurer) with other members being Messrs R Malin, H langley, W Gray, F Gray, T Herbert, P Ashby, R Harris, G Fox, W Abbott, W Lewis and W Dunkley.

3. Seeking Premises

It was recognised from the formation of the Club that the premises in Lauds Road were temporary. A newspaper article of October 1921[10] reported that the Committee were starting to talk with the Trustees of the Old Schools.

> *Crick Ex-Servicemen – The local Branch of the British Legion, which has met with auspicious success since its foundation a year ago, is now desirous of increasing its activities, and finds the present accommodation – so generously provided by Capt. Smith – too small for the purpose. Fortunately, there appears to exist in the village splendid alternative accommodation in the Old Schools, which have been unused for years and are rapidly becoming derelict. A deputation of ex-service men has been appointed to meet the trustees with a view of taking the schools over and converting them into a spacious social Club, with facilities for a billiard room, the establishment of a reading room and lending library, lectures, debates, and other features that will undoubtably brighten village life in Crick. The deputation consists of Capt. AGL Smith (the President), Mr W Kinchin (secretary) and Messrs. Gilbert Howkins, JV Lewis and RH Harris. The very position of the schools, standing as they do in the very centre of the village, and casting their shadow, as it were, on that simple but beautiful Cross erected by the people of Crick in memory of their fallen sons, is a singularly appropriate one, and the housing of the survivors of the Great War near that spot will remind us constantly of the stirring words of General Horne on the occasion of the dedication with regard to what is due to the living ex-soldiers as well as the fallen. Certain technicalities will doubtless have to be overcome to effect the transfer of the schools, but the deputation will be fortunate in meeting in the Trustees – viz., the Rev. N Hathererley, and Messrs. W Gilbert, L Lewis, TE Marson and HJ Sparshott – gentlemen who took the greatest interest in their welfare when on active service in the establishment of parcels funds etc., and may be assumed of their sympathetic co-operation.*

The Trustees of the Old Schools owned both properties refered to in the above article. These prperties become redundant when, following the government's expansion of elementary and secondary education in the early 20th century, Crick Primary School was opened in 1918 with 3 classrooms.

Today we are living the outcome these negotitions between the School Trustees and the Ex-Servicemen's Club. The Girls and Infants School, now known as the Old School, was retained by the School Trustees. The building was used as a village hall until the present one was built in 1959. There was a "*lending library*" and there were *"lectures, debates, and other features",* including films, dances and whist drives held. Today the Old School continues as the village hub and Crick Parish Office.

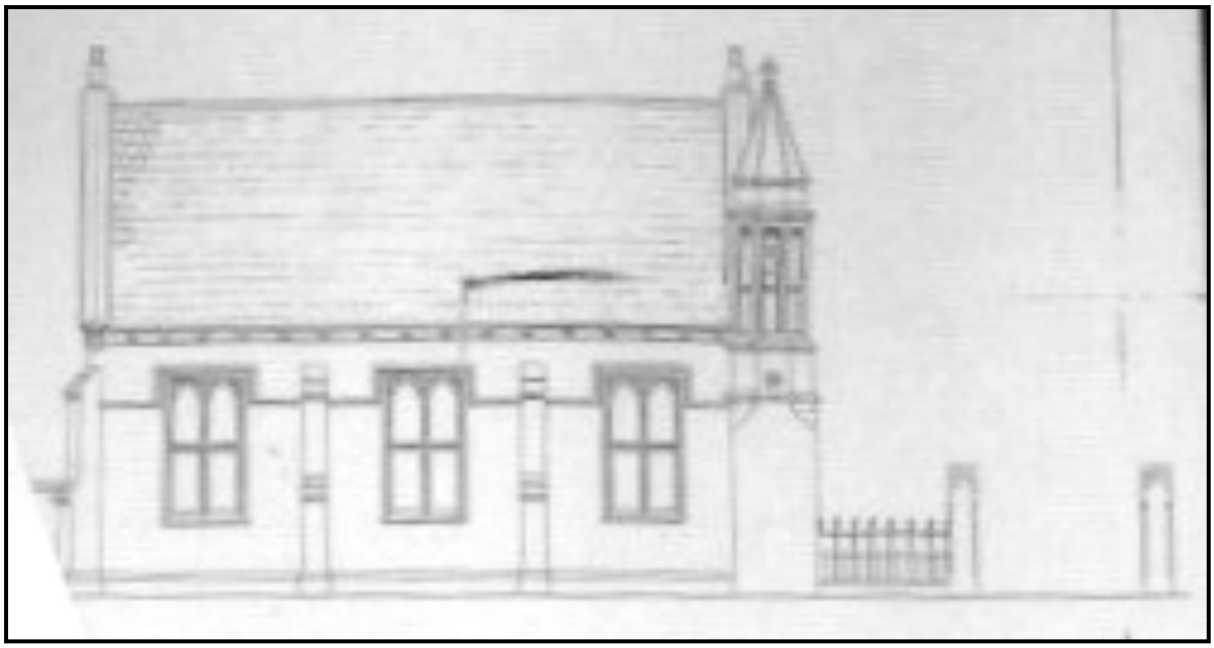
The Boys School became the Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club. It provided a "*spacious social Club, with facilities for a billiard room*". But we do not know the terms of the transfer of the property.

In 1910 the value[11] of the Girls & Infants School was £318 and he Boys School was £335. In 1921/1922 the Club would not have been able enough money to buy the property but it is more likely they could have agreed to a peppercorn rent. **It was not until 1952 that the Boys School was legally conveyed from the School Trustees to Club.**

Besides not knowing the terms of the transfer we cannot be quite sure when the Club moved into the building. The date on the board at the entrance to the Club gives the occupation of the premises as1926. I can find no evidence to support this date. It would be feasible to suggest agreement would be reached on the transfer in 1921/1922 and occupation soon after. However, an newspaper article[7] written in 1971 celbrates 50 years "*of the club headquarters in Church Street."* Suggesting a date in 1921.

There can be no doubt that these early years had been successful not only for the ex-soldier's welfare but also their dynamic in establishing a club and raising funds. The Club turnover[9] in their first year was £1,100 with probably about 100 members. Members would come from those who went to war plus those who helped the war effort at home. As today, members would not only come from Crick but West Haddon, Yelvertoft, Hillmorton and etc.

4. About the School Building



Side view from the original 1847 plan for the Boys School

The Boys School (now the Ex-service Men's Club) was erected in 1847 to accommodate 50 children[12]. It had an endowment at that time of £21 derived from the bequests of Richard Drayson and William Henfray. In 1806 Richard Drayson left 17 acres of land, the profits from which were to be used for the purchase of a fat cow not costing more than £15. The cow to be killed and distributed at Christmas among the poor of the parish; the residue of the profits to be applied to the instruction of the children of the poor. William Henfray bequeathed £394, by which 3% consols were purchased, two thirds of the dividends to be paid to the schoolmaster for instructing 12 poor children, and the remaining third to be paid to the Independent Minister of the village. Also, in 1819 George Judkin left the dividend from £100 12s 9d new 4% annuities to be paid to the schoolmaster for instructing 7 poor boys. In consideration of the above 27 boys were taught free. A school had been on the site since at least 1721 when it was recorded that "Willie Watts was paid 1s 8d for a window and bords for the scoulhouse".

The Girls and Infants School on the opposite side of the road, was erected in 1846 paid for by a Trust led and substantially funded by the Reverend Swainson, This Trust also purchased the land and existing school building, which was in a poor state of order, from the Guardians of the Poor of the Rugby Union in May 1846. Further land by the church wall was purchased in July 1847 and in 1907 to increase the plot to its present size. The boys' school was re-

built in 1847 '*to be used as a school for poor persons and as a school master's house*'.

These two schoolhouses continued to educate the children of Crick and be owned by the School Trust until the new school was built in its present position[12]. The School Trust comprised, similar to today, the Reverend of St Margaret's Church, two Churchwardens and two Crick Overseers of the Poor (today Parish Councillors)

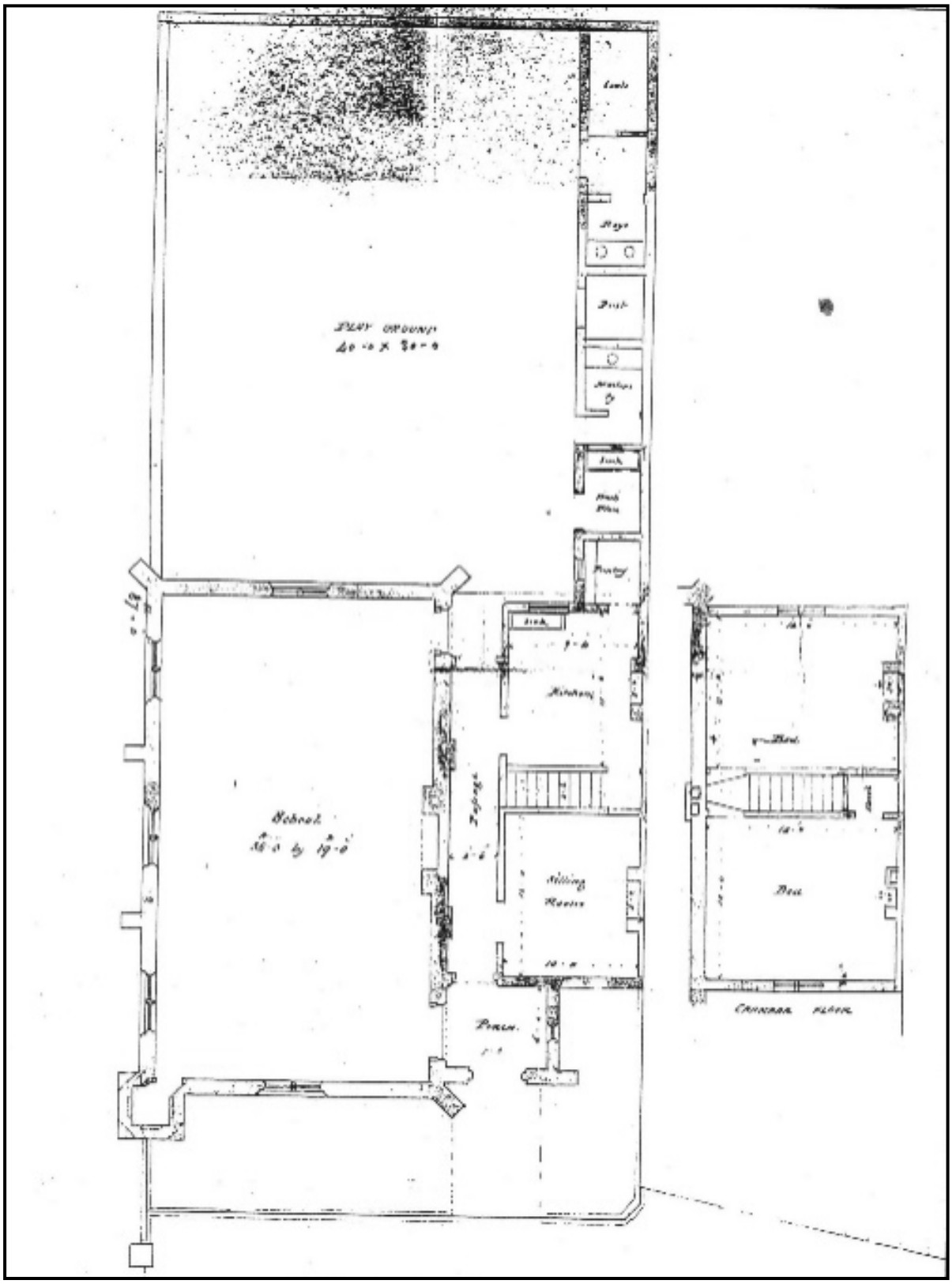
Today the building has a grade2 listing[14] and is in a designated Conservation Area.

According to a report commissioned by the Club in 2019[13], "*the school was designed by DG Squirhill of Leamington who, like early-mid-Victoria architects, worked in a variety of styles I the 1830s and 1840s; Gothic, Tudor, Revival, Italianate and even cottage. Here the most conspicuous feature, tall schoolroom window and main door surround are in a fairly pure gothic style, with carved heads adding interest, whereas the first-floor windows and those along the north side have hood moulds and are more in late medieval domestic style. In general, it is typical of many schools erected before the 1870 Education Act".*
The report comments on the limited budget available which "*kept schools modest and they rarely comprised more than a single classroom".*

"In terms of building materials window and door openings are in Hollington Sandstone, a red sandstone from Staffordshire. For the most part the external walls are of hard, mottled, purply-red semi-engineered brick laid in Flemish bond (stretcher-header-stretcher), which the general darker headers forming a daper pattern." There is a fish-scale tile roof.

5. Early Days

The Ex-Servicemen's Club took over a building that would have little changed from 1847. The original ground plan is shown below.



According to anecdotal evidence, the initial layout of the Club in the 1920s and 1930s was similar to the plan above. The entrance door was not on the side as it is today but straight ahead. You then walked down a short passage which opened out into the main room. However, if you continued straight ahead you came to the bar which was just past the stairs to the committee rooms. The main room had a wooden bench around the sides. Scattered about were chairs and tables and there was a full-size billiard table in front of the large roadside window. Later there was a stand-up piano which was used by members to sing songs mainly learnt during the war.

Electricity and lighting was not installed until the mid-1930s and heating was provided by a "pot" coal fired stove similar the ones in the church. The stove was in the main room near where the bar is today. It is said that there was quite an "atmosphere" in the room when the coal fired stove was burning and the men were smoking their cigarettes and pipes! For those wishing to escape the smoke, there was a back door into garden. The extension into the garden area did not happen until 1965.

"Pot" Guerney Stove in St Margaret's Church Similar to the one in the Club

6. The First 50 Years

The first 50 years of the Club were briefly summarised in the Herald & Tribune article[7] found in committee room. Some key points reported:

> *Half a century of social services in the notable achievement of Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club and Institute, which celebrate ……..with an 'open house' [A] for the 400-odd members [B] of the club headquarters [C] in Church Street.*
>
> *The first year's turnover of the club was £1,100, and the present turnover is £11,000. Service rather than finance is however, the main objective evidenced by the annual children's party, the summer fete, war memorial maintenance, assistance to church restoration and Christmas presents to senior citizens.*
>
> *Since the early 1950s the club has been open to women [D] as men, and this is often regarded as a most significant step.*

Notes on the above:

A This included Bingo. Cards, darts, billiards, snooker, pool, and skittles also played

B 400 members in a village adult population of 1200 [15]

C Indication that the present building was first occuppied in July 1921 if this report is correct in stating it was 50 years at *"the club headquaters in Church Street"*. However, this is the only indicator of occuppancy found and may not be regarded as sound evidence.

D The Club had changed from its early days, when dogs were allowed to accompany the men into the Club, while women had to wait until the 1950s and even then, their membership had to be vetted by the committee. This remained the case until at least 1973.

As there are no minutes or records available for this time, we have to rely on anecdotal evidence to understand some of the activities. More views need to be gathered to give a complete view of the period.

During World War 2, the club remained open but without a steward. The committee ran the club.

It was notable that those who returned from World Wars 1 & 2 used to huddle together and talk about their experiences but they did not share their tales with others.

OUR CLUBS Ex-Servicemen's Club, Crick

Proud of 50 years of social service

A page from the July 1971 edition of the Mercury & Herald, found on the floor in the Committee Room

Bill Fursman remembers going into The Cub in the 1950s as a youngster to buy lemonade and crisps. He and friends were allowed to stay as long as they were quiet and left as soon as they had finished their lemonade!

Bill also recalls nearly causing a defray in the Club when he returned on leave from National Service. At the time he was still under 18, the legal drinking age. He went into the club in uniform but the steward refused him a drink on the basis that "his mother would not like it". Those present disagreed, so there was a noisy dispute but in the end Bill got his pint.

In the 1950s, on Sunday night, the men turned up at the Club in their best suits even if they had not been to Church earlier in the day.

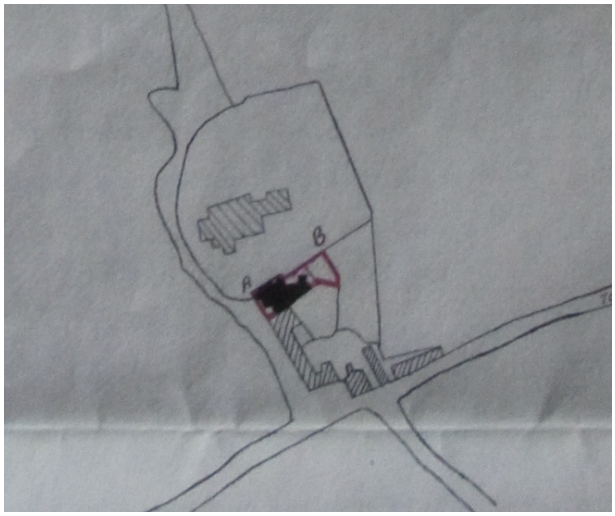
Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Sunday night was Bingo Night. In 1960 a pint cost around 2s 6d (£0.12) and a packet of 20 cigarettes 5s 2d (£0.12).

During 1965 there was major internal work to provide a games area and toilets. The games included darts, billiards, pool and skittles and members took part in local league matches.

In 1968 a house was provided for the Steward. - see Stewards House

Relationship with the immediate community was not always as it should be, either because of noise or late evening drinking. When the Rectory was sold in 1950s, there is a story that St Margaret's Church tried to buy the Club because it was at the Church gates and was seen as a poor influence. Needless to say, attempts failed.

Whether or not this prompted the Club to gain control of the land and building we will not know. But the Club to finally purchased them in1952. The conveyance was from the Old School Trustees, namely Rev. Arnold Dunn, CR Stephens, TW Smart, N Morgan and PW Pratt, "*being the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of Crick aforesaid and the persons nominated by the Parish Council to replace the Overseers of the Poor of the same Parish".* The conveyance was for £250 plus costs. It is noted that the Club was registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. The 1893 Act provides for a society to be registered to engage in any industry, business or trade authorised by its rules or constitution. Registration allows the society to have limited liability.



Map attached to the conveyance deed showing in a thick line the plot area

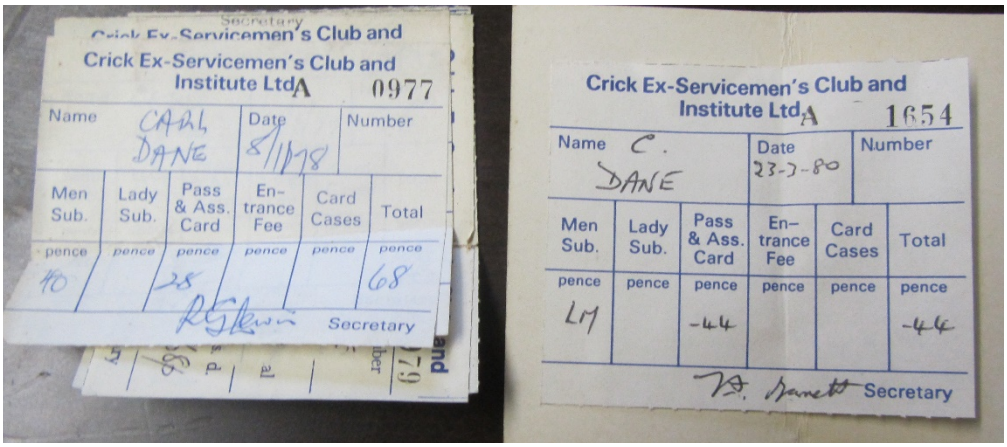
What is certain that without the goodwill of the Church and Parish Council, the club's security of occupation would not have been achieved. That is also true of the original discussions in 1920.

Over the period the Club widened its membership horizons. Not only were women admitted, all be it after vetting by the committee, but membership was widened. The natural move was to become affiliated with the growing Working Men's Club and Institute Union (CIU). This is a voluntary association of private members' clubs in Great Britain & Northern Ireland. Indeed, most social clubs are affiliated to the CIU. They are cooperatives run by their members through a committee, which is the case at the Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club.

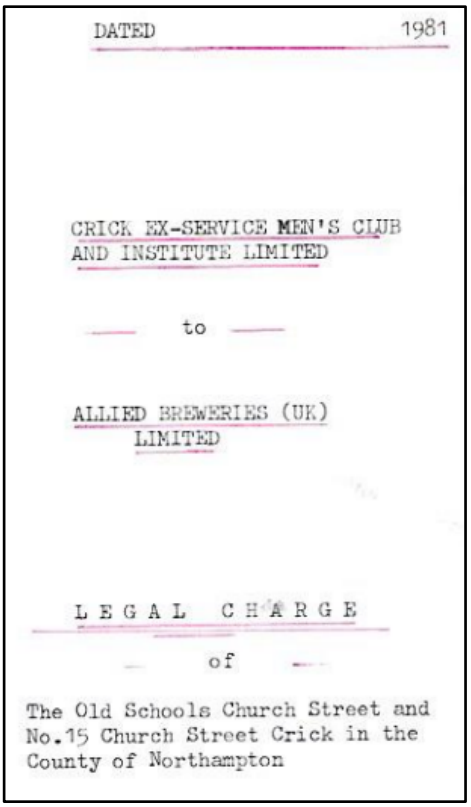
7. The Second 50 years

Originally the Club was affiliated with British Legion. At some time, it changed to be affiliated with Working Men's Clubs, but is now registered as an independent Ex-Servicemen's Club. The Club has about 800 members from Crick and surrounding villages.

There have been some interesting members, one being Carl Dane who lived in King Style Close. He was the known for being the first "gong-man" at the start of many Rank Organisation films, then called General Film Distributors.



Over these years membership has moved away from catering for just the needs of servicemen and has gradually embraced the needs of working men and women in the community.


DATED 1981

CRICK EX-SERVICE MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE LIMITED

to

ALLIED BREWERIES (UK) LIMITED

LEGAL CHARGE

of

The Old Schools Church Street and No.15 Church Street Crick in the County of Northampton

In 1981 the Club borrowed £3,500 over 5 years from Allied Breweries, a legal charge was placed on the Club and Steward's House. One of the conditions of the loan was that the Club sold Ansell's Special Draught Bitter, Ansell's Draught Mild and Skol Lager. What is not known is why the loan was necessary, unless it was related to a fall in membership and/or repairs being needed.

On 6 Dec 2013 the Club was incorporated as a private limited company by guarantee for the business of a licensed club.A company limited by guarantee is a type of corporation used primarily for non-profit organisations that require legal personality. A company limited by guarantee does not usually have a

share capital or shareholders, but instead has members who act as guarantors of the company's liabilities: each member undertakes to contribute an amount specified in the articles, typically very small, in the event of insolvency or of the winding up of the company.

In 2020, following a Listed Building Appraisal, exterior work was carried out according to the building appraisal. The building is Grade 2 listed and is in a conservation area.

The bingo nights so loved the early days contiue today. Pool, snooker, darts and skittles continue to be played by both men and women. Social events were arranged and it continues as a place to to have drink and chat,

In the 1970's vegatable shows were held. It is said this was for Davy Lewis to sell the vegatables he produced on his many plots at the allotments.

A range of activities was much more feasible and relieved the pressure on the bar area when the major extension into the rear garden happened in 1965. This created the present games space and toilets.

For at least the past thirty years, all the major sporting events are shown on a big screen.

8 Today

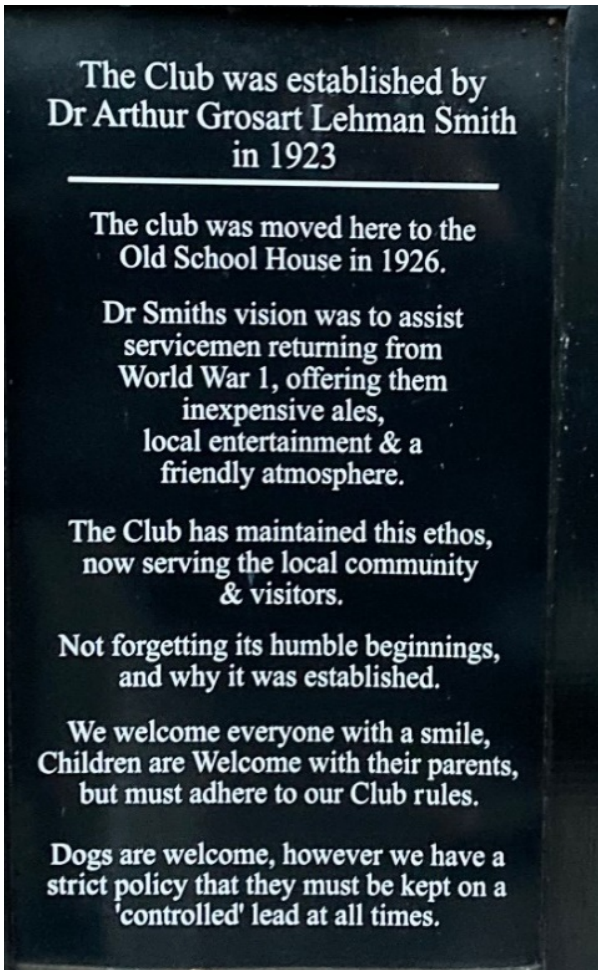
Today, Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club has about 800 members from Crick and surrounding villages.

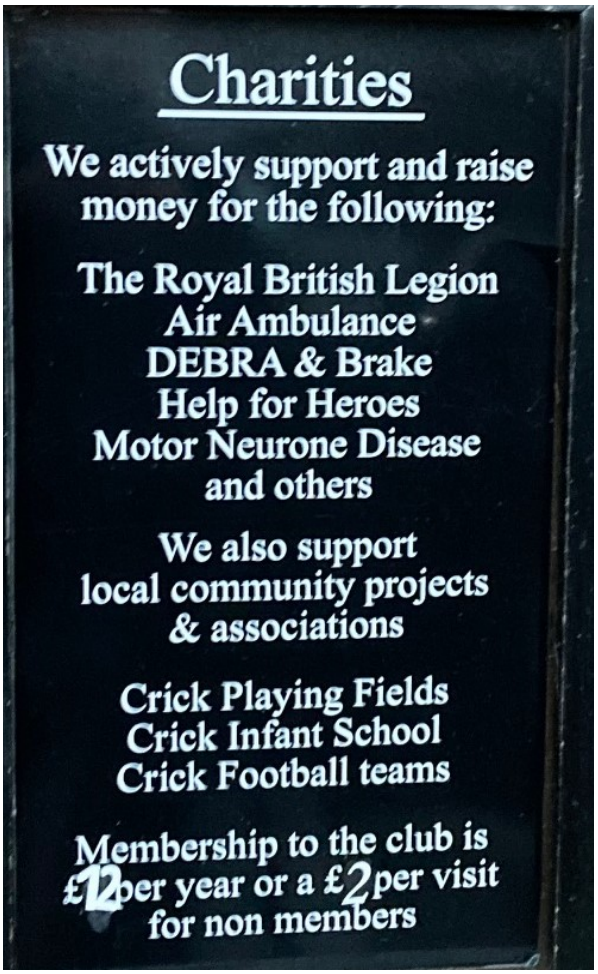
The continuing ethos of the Club as an Ex-Servicemen's Club continues. The notice boards at the Club entrance demonstrate this. And the poem [16] written in the 1980s (?) is still relevant today.

The Club ownes the land and buildings, is incorporated as a private limited company run by its members and is independent of any affiliations other than its continued support of Ex-Servicemen.

The building is Grade 2 listed and is in a conservation area.

On 17th June 2023 the Club will celebrate over a century of contributing to the community and Ex-Servicemen.





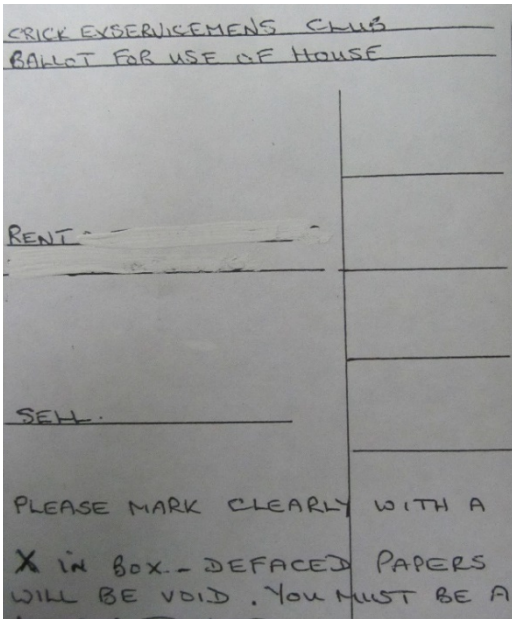
OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE

Standing there in Church Street
Is the CRICK Ex-Service Club
It backs on to the Garden
Of the Wheatsheaf Pub.
The days when Bob and Peggy
Were stewards at the Bar
Was full of old age villagers
Who couldn't walk too far.
A very friendly atmosphere
Enjoyed by one and all
Sitting with their pens in hand
The "Bingo" they would call.
Bob and Peggy reached the age
When they both had to go
For all their long term service
We all miss them so.

9. The Stewards House

15 Church Street today taken from the street

Arthur Bates was the first steward. Steward's accommodation was available in the two upstairs rooms. With the success of the Club came the need to provide more reasonable accommodation. In 1968 the Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club purchased 15 Church Street, nearly opposite, as the steward's house. The house was at the top of Rectory Close and had been built, like the rest of the Close, two years earlier. A price of £4,700 was agreed with the owner. A £500 deposit was paid.


CRICK EXSERVICEMENS CLUB
BALLOT FOR USE OF HOUSE
RENT
SELL
PLEASE MARK CLEARLY WITH A
X IN BOX. - DEFACED PAPERS
WILL BE VOID. YOU MUST BE A

In 1975 the Steward was paid £21.15 per week or £1,130 per annum. His duties included, "*having sole care, charge and control of all bar and cellar stocks"* as well as "*all moneys received".*

About 1980, a ballet of members on whether or not to sell the house was carried out. Members decided to retain the house but as a rentable property providing an income. In 1993 the income was £296.50 per annum.

By 1996 the house was in a poor state of repair and it was no longer needed as a steward's house. It was sold for about £60,000.

10. Armistice Day Remembrance Service and Afternoon Tea.

It is normally accepted that the Remembrance Service is held on the nearest Sunday to 11th November, Armistice Day, at 3.00p.m. And the accepted reason for this is that those local people would be attending or taking part in larger gatherings, in for example Rugby, in the morning at 11.00 a.m.

There was another reason. Those attending at Crick in the afternoon would then take "afternoon tea" at the Club. Those attending would wear their best clothes in honour of the fallen. It has been said the smell of Remembrance Day in the 1950's was mothballs and alcohol!

After WW1, those ex-servicemen attending displayed a range of injuries as a consequence of the horrors of war – physical injuries such as loss of eyes, legs or arms and mental problems not seen before.

Being a civic service, and while he was able to do so, Dr Smith delivered the sermon.

11. References

1 Roll of Honour Board in the Crick Ex-Servicemen's Club

2 1911 Census

3 Crick's Roll of Honour Book

4 JR Haswell,by jJim Goodger notes for Brooklands Museum

5 Rugby Advertiser 05 November 1920

6 Rugby Advertiser 28 January 1921

7 Mercury & Herald July 1971

8 Rugby Advertiser 27 May 1921

9 Rugby Advertiser 19 August 1921

10 Rugby Advertiser 28 October 1921

11 1910 Valuers Notebook for Crick

12 A Brief History of Crick Schools by Jim Goodger, Crick Digital Archive

13 The School Building: The Original Structure from A listed building appraisal of the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Crick by Paul Stamer Heritage, Feb 2019

14 Listed Building reference SP5872/11/120

15 1971 Census

16 Village People – Book of Enlightened Prose of Inhabitants of Crick by Eileen Stewart

12. Acknowledgements

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Crick Digital Archive