

THE NEWS OF PEACE REACHES HALBERTON

“Mr. Bidmead was the first to bring the glad news of peace to Halberton on Monday (11th) from Tiverton Junction, and soon there was a display of flags and much rejoicing”.

“In the evening a memorable united service was held the Parish Church, which was crowded. An address was given by the Vicar (Rev. Wade Smith)”.

THE HALBERTON WAR MEMORIAL

Armistice Day was 11th November 1918. Twelve days later a meeting was held at Halberton to discuss ideas for a fitting war memorial.

A committee of 12 villagers was elected and Mr. Jennings, who had recently retired after 40 years as headmaster of Halberton School, was appointed as chairman.

Suggestions considered were; a monument on Hill Head; adding two bells to the peal in the parish church; improving the village water supply and *“A Parish Hall for social intercourse where the roll of honour could be erected”*. The parish hall proposal was carried unanimously. £200 was subscribed on the spot.

RAISING THE FUNDS

A total of £1,131 was needed to buy and equip the hall.

£716 was raised from subscriptions.

Fund raising events were held including two concerts, a sports day, a dance at the New Inn and a Pageant at Bidwell. The pageant raised £210, almost one sixth of the amount required.

The Swan Inn was purchased from Starkey, Knight and Ford for £800. The remaining £331 was spent on repairs, decorating, fixtures, lamps, chairs, crockery, linens... a piano...

**£1,131 would be the equivalent of about
£431,000 at today's prices !**



WELL DONE, HALBERTON
The First War Memorial in
Devon
FINE VILLAGE INSTITUTE

“Halberton's War Memorial Institute was opened on Easter Monday by the Mayor of Tiverton (Councillor A. T.

Gregory) Previously there was a procession round the village... the streets were bedecked with flags. On returning to the Institute the Mayor unlocked the front door, and declared the premises open... He congratulated Halberton on being, as far as he knew, the first parish in Devon to secure a worthy war memorial and wished them good luck (applause)”.

Western Times - Friday 25 April 1919