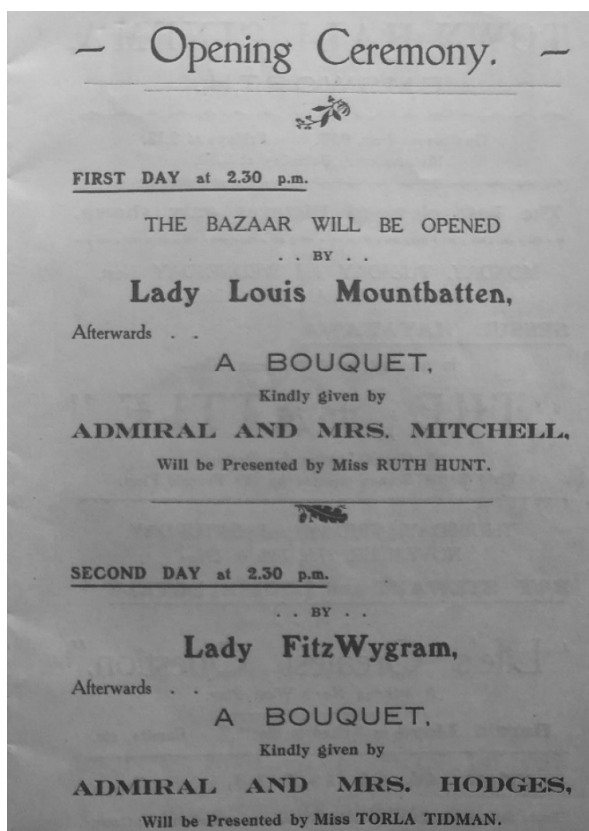


The Grand Bazaar

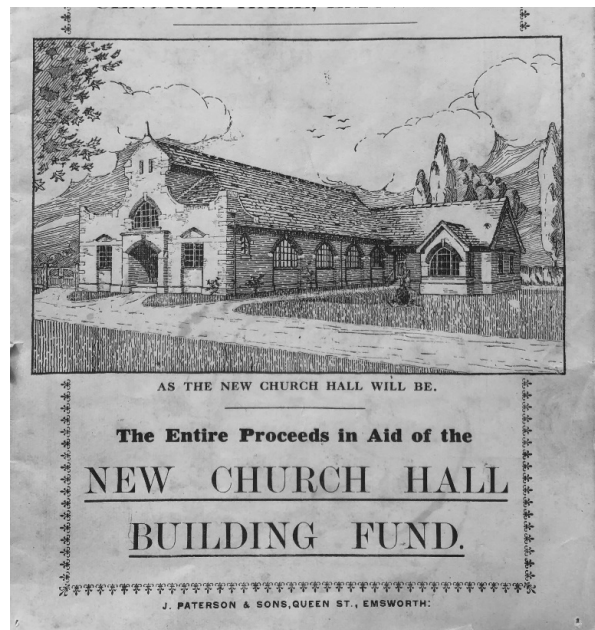
by Gordon Braddock

In 1920 the new Rector Oswald Hunt saw the need for a social centre near St James Church. He instigated money-raising activities to fund construction of a Hall in Church Path. For several years there were bazaars, jumble sales, concerts, drama productions, cake and tea parties, etc. As more money was needed the idea of a Grand Bazaar was born and took place a century ago in the Central Hall, Emsworth.



At 2.30 pm on Tuesday 18th November 1924 the Grand Bazaar was formally opened by Edwina, wife of Lord Louis Mountbatten who lived at Adsdean House. The following day that honour was granted to Lady FitzWygram from Staunton Park. Bouquets were given by 3 year old Ruth Hunt, daughter of the Rector, and Miss Hall who replaced Torla Tidman.

There were sundry stalls selling a wide variety of goods including White Elephant, Second-Hand and a Pound (any ideas?).



Programmes cost 2d (less than 1p). The architectural artist who drew the above image had a vivid imagination. Spot the differences with the building (below) today.



Shooting (supervised by Admiral Gordon Smith) and Penny Building (overseen by Mr Orchard and Sunday School teachers) preceded 'Numerous Other Attractions' – presumably too many to mention! A later account suggested an Auction and Coats and Cushion sales amongst the latter.

Teas were served for 6d (2½p). Musical items and selections were played in the Small Hall in the evenings.

Advertising raised revenue and give a snapshot of commercial life a century ago. The Foster & Co, Coal and Coke merchants (tel. Emsworth 20) featured prominently as did Cookes, the Tailors close to the Railway Station in North Street. W Pink & Sons were high class grocers and provision merchants based in Portsmouth but with a branch in The Square. Havant Electrical Engineers George Bentley and Wine and Spirit Merchants, Preston Watson & Co., advertised as did Pink's of Chichester.

PIMCO (Portsea Island Mutual Cooperative Society) bought a centre double-page spread in the programme. They boasted 'Best Quality goods' in the local branch at Emsworth 'EVERYTIME and ALL THE TIME'. Business was conducted on the lines of . . 'Good Quality at Fair Prices, Proper Wages and Conditions of the Staff'.

J Paterson & Sons of Queen Street printed the programme. At 12 Queen Steet was watch-maker and jeweller A E Hounsom. In King Street W Wraight & Son, builders, boasted greenhouses, pit-lights & frames and garages. Undertaking was 'carefully carried out' (it still is). A S Cridlan's ironmonger shop specialised in hot water and range work and 'Saving coal by fixing a BEWTY BARLESS FIRE from 17/6 (cheaper makes from 7/-)'.

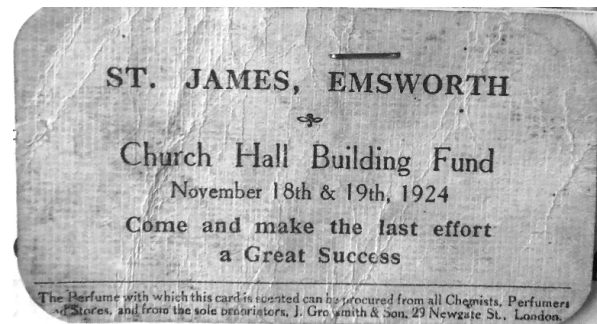
W J King & Sons sold seeds and other nursery products in the Square. In North Street, The Strand Dairy Co. (proprietor F P Gray) delivered pure new milk twice daily and were purveyors of eggs, cream and Devonshire Farm butter.

Ernest Carter meat stores traded at 14 North Street. Also in that flourishing shopping street were C Bailey (jewellers, watch and clock makers at number 37), J Hetheridge (monumental and general masons and undertakers) and W E Jolley (carver, gilder and picture frame manufacturer at No. 18). Ditman & Malpas Ltd. provided poultry and pig food 'of Every Description' and had branches in Queen Street and Quay Mills as well as North Street.

A M Newell of 1 High Street was a family butcher. The kiddies' shoe shop Voysey's and their boot and shoe warehouse were also in the High Street as were Decorators and Furnishers, Scadgell & Son offering upholstery, carpets, bedsteads and electric lamps . . . and free estimates for structural alterations, renovations and decorating.

H Densem was a dispensing, veterinary and photographic chemist who also traded in hot water bottles and thermos flasks. Leonard Mant was the cycle agent at 29 High Street. Upholsterer, painter, decorator, undertaker W J Orsborn was at 14 West Street.

An intriguing advertising ruse was on the tickets, allegedly scented with perfume.



The small print underneath this ticket claims the perfume from J. Grossmith and Son, 29 Newgate, London could be bought 'from all chemists, perfumers and outlets and from sole proprietors'. The company is still in business, 180 years after its foundation.

The amount raised for the Church Hall fund due to the Grand Bazaar was quoted as £548 18s 3d.

On 25th March 1925 Major Middleton Robinson laid the foundation stone which is still visible on the east wall.

The official hall opening ceremony took place on Wednesday 18th November 1925, one year after the Grand Bazaar. The total cost of building and furnishing was quoted as £3,412. Receipts and promised funds amounted to £3,062, a shortfall of £350. The remaining funds were raised and the hall was built and remains in regular use today.