

FROM THE GARTON ARCHIVE

PICTURE OF THE MONTH 94 FEBRUARY 2020



Photo by John Edwards (Photo4Me)

I am indebted to Lincoln Christ's Hospital Girls' High School alumna Jane Burgess (née Otter) for sending me the above picture, which she found on *Facebook*. It is one of many photographs that Jane has kindly forwarded to me.

The December *Photograph of the Month* featured *The Prep*, a hut well-known to Lincoln School and Lincoln Christ's Hospital School students. This month's picture features another hut with a somewhat different, but equally memorable and distinguished history. On first sight, this photograph looks like a run-down 'bog-standard' old hut typical of sites such as the one above. However, its rather sad and sorry decaying state disguises its unique place in the history of Lincoln School.

'The Chalet', as it was known in its later years, was located to the rear of the *Adam & Eve* pub yard in Wragby. It was purchased from Lincoln School, and erected on the Wragby site in 1936. It was used for wedding receptions, dances, plays, concerts, youth club activities, and for serving refreshments for day trippers *en route* to the east coast during the 1940s, '50s and '60s. It was finally demolished in December, 1990.

Those readers who have read previous articles from the Garton Archive may recall that Lincoln School was evacuated during the First World War to a site on Sewell Road, and that the Wragby Road site was occupied by the 4th Northern General Hospital from 1914 to 1920. Some 45,000 wounded soldiers were treated on the site during the course of the war. Although it is difficult to believe, the hut featured above was in fact one of some twenty temporary buildings erected on the Lincoln School playing field, which acted as wards for the wounded soldiers receiving treatment. The two pictures below show the School as it was during the occupation, and a selection of the huts on the playing field. Note the uncompleted west wing of the School, and the enclosed Fives court which was used for storage purposes.



I can find only three references in the Garton Archive resources to those temporary wards. The first is in Professor Charles Garton's painstakingly transcribed handwritten *Abstracts of the Governors' Minutes*. An entry dated 27TH June 1922 noted that the Lincoln Corporation had not yet removed the all of the huts, many of which were preventing the clearing and levelling of the playing field. Four blocks remained in the centre of the field, and there were others on the side which, it was suggested, might be used for storage. It is possible that the hut featured at the head of this article was used for storage purposes until 1936, before being transported to the land adjoining the Adam & Eve pub in Wragby.

The second reference is in the Christmas 1922 edition of *The Lincolnian*. In the 'School Notes' it was recorded that the playing field had now been cleared of the last of the "useful but unsightly huts; the relics of hospital occupation." After undergoing a thorough dressing, the field had resumed its "old-time aspect". There remained, however, far too many stones interfering with the young grass which would need to be removed if the ground was to be available for the following cricket season.

The next edition of the magazine contained the following brief report:

"We are all pleased to return once more to our own cricket field. Those who worked so carefully last winter at stone-picking will now no doubt be glad to see their toil recompensed."

Succeeding generations of Lincoln School cricketers, including myself, also have cause to be grateful to those worthy stone-pickers! I wonder if they were volunteers!

The picture below, depicting staff and patients, is one of many in the Garton Archive's precious collection of 4th Northern General Hospital photographs.



Peter Harrod

Archivist for the pre-1974 archives at LCHS.

