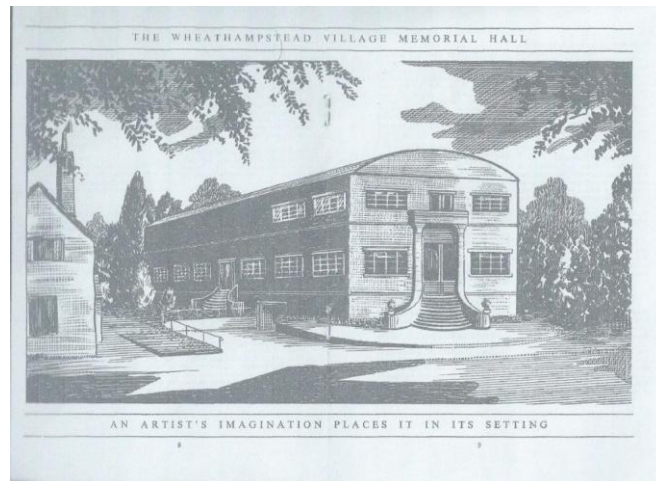


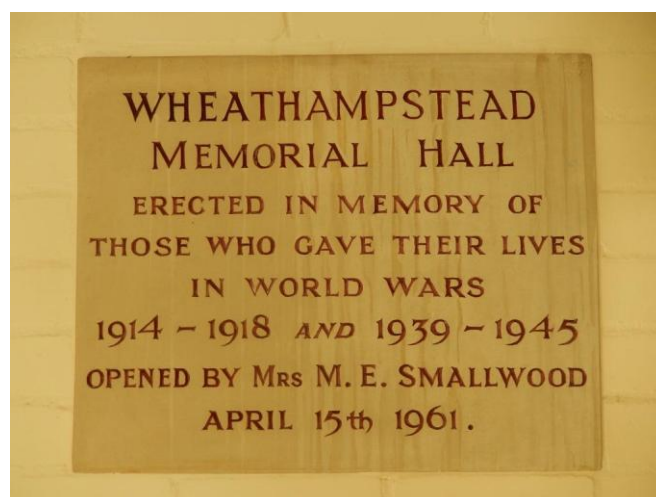
The proposal to build a Memorial Hall in Wheathampstead was put forward soon after the end of the Second World War as a tribute to those who gave their lives in that conflict.

The Parish Council published a booklet, *The Happy Village*, in August 1948, to help raise funds for the building of such a Hall and also to “make a definite move towards the publication of a real history of Wheathampstead”. The land had already been bought and paid for and the Appeal Fund had £1,000 in hand. The cost of building was estimated at £10,000 of which half might be raised through grants, leaving £4,000 to be raised.



‘The Wheathampstead Village Memorial Hall: An Artist’s Imagination Places it in its Setting’
(caption in the 1948 booklet)

The original plan was perhaps too ambitious but the Memorial Hall we have today was opened in 1961 to commemorate those who died in both World Wars. The Hall was extended in 1979 and has been refurbished at intervals since then. The lighting, sound and projection facilities in the Sam Collins Room (the main hall) are being upgraded in 2016.



Note: Mrs Smallwood was the wife of the much-loved Dr Matthew Smallwood, who practised in the village for nearly 50 years. Their younger son, Sub-Lieutenant Patrick Lovell Smallwood (RNVR) was killed on active service in the English Channel on 24 April 1944, aged 21. Their elder son, Captain David Lovell Smallwood, was killed on active service in Java on 11 October 1945. Both brothers are remembered on the Wheathampstead War Memorial and the old Roll of Honour.