*The history of Sparkwell Parish Hall and the surrounding land*

# TIMELINE

**1856**
The 1st Lord Baron Seaton, purchases Beechwood House.
The large estate includes land the hall and play area now occupy.

**1942**
The Beechwood Estate is requisitioned by the Navy during WWII. A naval camp, comprising 20 nissen huts, a NAAFI canteen/cinema and a sick bay is set up to rest and rehabilitate sailors.

**1946 (March)**
Royal British Legion Sparkwell Branch holds a committee meeting, and commit to building a parish hall.

**1946 (December)**
Land is given by the 4th Baron Seaton of Beechwood, for the sole purpose of a parish hall and playground.

**1942 to c.1980**
The former sick bay falls into disrepair and is demolished in the early 80s

**1943 to c.1979**
Treby Hall, a small timber frame shed with corrugated iron cladding is used for small events. The hall is demolished in the late 70s to make way for the Treby Arms' car park. The former sick bay fell into disrepair and was later demolished.

**1979**
Sparkwell Community Council is established, and a steering committee is formed to consider building a hall.
A Fair and Activities Committee was created at a later date.

**1982**
The £20,000 fundraising target is met by individuals and 14 organisations, qualifying Sparkwell for further funding from Devon County Council.
South Hams District Council match Sparkwell's efforts with a further £20,000.

The £60,000 project can now begin...
Architect: Edwin T. Ansted ARIBA
Builder: F.G. Conybeare & Son

**1983 (September 20th)**
Community members attend a 'cutting of the turf' ceremony.

**1986**
Ellis Daw, designs and builds the Sparkwell parish hall sign which wins Devon County Village Sign Contest.

**2018 (May 13th)**
Local communities, businesses and organisations raise £35'000 for a new playground.

The playground is officially opened by:
Sally Fairman, Chairman
Eddie-Hutton-Fellowes, Project Manager.

1856 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020

**1944 (June)**
D-Day
British Sailors from the Naval camp and American troops camped at Hemerdon House, leave for embarkation points in Saltash Passage, Plymouth.

**1946 (Summer)**
The Navy shuts down their naval camp, and begins dismantling the light weight nissen huts.

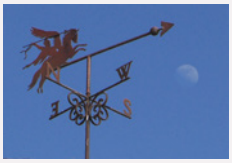
**1948**
The Navy offers their brick-built sick bay to the Royal British Legion, at no cost - which they gratefully accept.

**1950**
Negotiations to raise £300 for alterations to the sick bay, fail to come to fruition and the project is dropped.

**1975**
An early aerial photograph shows the sports field and basic play equipment.
The sports field is owned by Devon County Council.

**1984 (November 3rd)**
The hall is officially named by Lt Col the Earl of Morley, HM Lord Lieutenant of Devon, and opened by Major David Rutledge MBE, Chairman

Topping Out Ceremony takes place with the Pegasus weather vane donated by Jack Harvey – Chairman of the Hall Management Committee.



**c.1987**
The hall prior to being extended.

**2001 to 2009**
The hall is extended to include a theatre complete with backstage facilities. Many villagers and locals volunteer their time for the building and refurbishment effort.

Funding kindly provided by:
The Beechwood Estate
Sparkwell Parish Trust
Devon County Council
South Hams District Council
Sparkwell Parish Council
The National Lottery
Awards for All
Centrica Energy

**2009 (July 1st)**
The hall is rededicated to the community in the 25th Anniversary Year.

SPARKWELL
PARISH HALL

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