

The Girls Club, Handcross

The Girls Club was formed in 1911 by the curate's wife, Mrs Agnes Dengate when she came to live in Handcross. She thought there seemed plenty of occupations for the local boys, but nothing for the girls.

The meetings were held every Friday evening at the Old Mission Room, now All Saints Church, from 7 pm until 9 pm, and were much enjoyed. Mrs Dengate was the leader, Miss Sherlock, secretary, and Miss Burt, treasurer. One penny was paid per meeting.

Sometimes the members sang, and learnt songs, sometimes they sewed or knitted, sometimes danced, sometimes rehearsed plays or played games.

Articles were made for a stall at a sale of work which was held at Ashfold to raise money for a Parish Hall which was much needed. When the hall was finally built, the Girls Club gave entertainments in it, and one raised £25 for hall funds. Future meetings were held in the hall. The club piano was handed over to the hall and filled a much needed want until a new one could be obtained.

During the war, socks and sea-boat stockings were knitted for the sailors. Some of the plays acted by the club included "Snowed up with the Duchess", "The Burglar", and "Britannia's Tea Party".

Several outings were arranged to Brighton and Tunbridge Wells.

As the war advanced, more and more members were doing war-work and eventually the club was disbanded.