

## **Whilton Village Hall**

The Village Hall began life as a barn, belonging to the farmhouse next door. In 1768 Jonathan Emery of Whilton left a bequest for the founding of a charity school to teach the poor children of Whilton. It took some time before his wishes were carried out, but eventually his trustees acquired the barn and converted it into a schoolroom. The foundation document dates from 1779. Thus Whilton children had the opportunity for education in "reading, writing and casting accounts" a century before the Education Act of 1870 made schooling compulsory for all aged 5 to 12.

In the next century, as numbers dwindled and expectations of better facilities could not be fulfilled, the decision was made to close the school in 1955. Following a campaign by villagers, the schoolroom was acquired as our Village Hall in 1957. It continues to have an educational role, in providing the base for the Pre-School, and is used by the Parish Council, as a polling station and for a wide variety of community activities and meetings.