

WAYZGOOSE

Institutes & Galas



The printing and papermaking industries were often the largest employers in their area, acting as a major focus for local communities. Such firms supported employees and the community alike by providing recreational facilities and supporting local events. Many firms provided a building specially dedicated to the social life of its employees. Such buildings were often built across the road from the firm and were usually called the Institute. The Institute doubled as a works canteen and a venue for concerts, dances, talks, sports and other events. The Collins Institute, for example, provided a separate 'girls' parlour' for social functions for female workers. Here they also held classes in nursing, sewing, cooking, physical drill and ambulance work.



The mill had a recreation place in the village; they had a bowling green, a putting green and two tennis courts. These were provided by the mill for the mill employees, other people could get use but it belonged to the mill. They used to at one time in the village hall put on a sort of film show, before television... I think they were quite generous to the village.



Next to the Institute employers often provided and built recreational grounds. These grounds often boasted football pitches, tennis courts, 'pitch and putt' courses as well as bowling greens. It could prove an effective recruiting tool. One young apprentice pointed out,

And of course there was also a football pitch that they built. So as boys we were always playing around there in the village, so before you even went to the mill they knew you, knew your history.

Firms also were involved in supporting local events such as gala days, donating their lorries to be decorated for the parade. Some, such as the Aberdeen-based mills, would take all the children of the town at Christmas to the theatre and follow this with a Christmas Party.

