

## LEA HOUSE, HALLOW GREEN SO 8277 5822



Lea House is of brick construction, with a tiled roof, gabled dormers with barge-boards and finials. The 3 brick chimneys flanking the ridge have over-sailing cap courses. There are tiled weatherings over the oriel windows and the front door. The second floor façade is stucco with decorative, planted timber-framing. There is still a pump in the garden from which the families on the Green would get their water.

The two front living rooms of Lea House have a high floor to ceiling door, which slides open in channels to create one large room. Committee meetings were held in this room. Internal Victorian architectural features have been retained including fireplaces.



In 1904 Mrs. Wheeley Lea (of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce) bought the properties and lands from a Mr. John Lewis Skinner to provide accommodation for a village nurse; the house was known as "Hallow Green House". She also built the Grade II listed alms houses adjoining the house on the SE side and a Working Men's Club for the many gardeners on her estate and other workers in the village. A soup kitchen for the poor also operated from Lea House.



In 1916 Mrs. Wheeley Lea died and left much of her estate to the Bishop of Worcester, who made a Deed of Gift of the properties in 1917 to the people of Hallow. A bronze plaque is on the wall just inside the front door. A Diocesan Trust was set up, known as The Trust of Lea House and Cottages to be used as residences by Parish Curate and Parish Nurse.

In 1920 the property was leased to the Hallow Branch of the Old Comrades Association for 21 years. Electric light was installed in 1926. In 1934 The Trustees of the Charity paid to Queen Anne's Bounty in London, established in 1707, as a fund for the relief of clergy. There is a long history of these properties being leased to people who contributed to Hallow Parish: Clergy, Nurses, Teachers and Caretakers.

In 1979 No 1 Lea House was sold and later No. 2. Both have been private dwellings ever since.

*Sources: Hallow History Group Research 2010, WCC Archives*