West Dean Village History Trail THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL



This wall is all that remains of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which was built on this site in 1860.

In the early years of the 20th Century the chapel ran a thriving Band of Hope which the children of the village attended. In addition to hymns and prayers they were warned of the dangers of strong drink and signed the pledge not to drink it. The children were entertained from time to time by magic lantern shows and were taken for picnic teas on Pepperbox Hill.

On the Monday after Harvest Festival all the produce which had been contributed was sold at the chapel by Dutch Auction and the proceeds given to charity.



The chapel was first registered for marriages in 1950. This was for the wedding of Doris Legg and Douglas Mouland. This couple then repeated history by going to live with her parents at Number 2, Rectory Hill as Doris' parents Ethel and Arthur Legg had done when they married and went to live with his parents at Number 2. In the 1950s Doris was active in running the evening Youth Club at the chapel.

THE WEDDING AT THE CHAPEL OF LILIAN PARSONS AND BRUCE KIRKPATRICK

At the end of funeral services conducted in the chapel the coffin of the deceased was conveyed to the churchyard for burial, followed in a traditional procession through the village by the mourners and the rest of the congregation.

Membership had dwindled by 1971 and the last service was held on 24th January. The chapel was subsequently demolished apart from this portion of wall.