

The White Barn

The White Barn is quite a famous landmark. One of the beams within it is marked 1826 February 1st. Initially built with a pantile roof, it was modernised with an asbestos roof in the 1960s. It was initially built to store animal feed and for the preparation of animal rations. Latterly, the southern end of the shed was converted into a potato chitting store. This process required the potatoes, which came in 50kg hessian bags, to be poured into 3 wooden open-topped shallow trays, levelled and then stacked. Around 15 tons (900 trays) of seed potatoes were stored in an area that was insulated against frost, complete with electric lighting to ensure the sprouts growing on the potatoes were strong, green and short. The whole experience of this process, both putting in and taking out the 100s of trays was extremely challenging on the arms and back! Such work has not been missed since the decision was taken to stop growing potatoes!

Alvingham did not have a village hall until late 1945, so the White Barn was used for celebrations of national importance*.

Two such events: The Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935 and The Coronation of George VI in 1937.

The White Barn, in 2023, is now a redundant building, awaiting a new chapter in its life.

The only known tragedy to occur there in was the death of Sam Shucksmith in around 1925. He died waiting for the Louth bus, just having admonished a car driver for not "blowing 'is 'orn".

THE AA ROAD SIGN:

This was erected in the early 1900s since the AA was formed in 1905.

A government edict in 1940 stated road signs must be removed or covered up in preparation for a potential invasion by German troops. This sign was taken down and remained in a shed at White Barn until the early 1999, when it was repainted and re-erected.

THE SEAT AT WHITE BARN CORNER:

For the whole of the 1900s, there has been a seat provided for those persons who were waiting for the local bus service, and continues today as a bus stop seat for local schoolchildren.

The old metal framed one had corroded, so a decision was made to replace it on a memorable occasion.

That occasion was: To commemorate The Platinum Jubilee of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II 2022.

*As mentioned in the article, 'Paying reverence to Mr & Mrs Holmes'

