

ALC/R4

GOOD SAMARITANS SOCIETY

Notes on interview with the present secretary of this society

Mr, Alderson,
Wolverton,
Phone:

In 1872 the good Samaritans Society was started in Bradwell.

The meeting to start the society was held in 'The Wharf Inn', Alderson knew this inn as the 'War Office'. In those days the pubs were much more freely used for meetings of societies.

Mr. Alderson has the original constitution of the club. It is frames.

How the society was started:

Bradwell was an informal village without the society structure prevalent in Wolverton. There was no snobbery of an out right nature. Mr. Miles was the doctor at that time in Bradwell. He used to arrange for ladies in the village who proved themselves gifted at nursing the sick to look after his sick patients as there was no money for district nurses,

When the society started members paid 1d. a week and received in return hospital letters or outpatient letters to enable them to visit the hospital. If you needed to stay in the hospital you had to obtain letters which were a form of payment that came from a charitable body and enabled you to receive the treatment you needed. If you were very ill, you would need many of these letters to ensure you could remain in hospital.

At first the letters, only entitled you to treatment at Northampton Hospital. You will find in Bradwell and Wolverton a lot of support for the Northampton Hospital, e.g. the annual Carnival which was held to raise money for treatment.

Later the service was extended to include ambulances and surgical materials (some on a loan service) The society is still active today. 10p a card.