GRIFFYDAM RED TRIANGLE INSTITUTE -1919



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCTOBER 2026

TRANSCRIBED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Coalville Times - 13 October 1919
In aid of the funds of the **RED TRIANGLE INSTITUTE**, **which it is proposed to erect at Griffydam**, a concert was held in the Council School on Saturday night, a good programme being given by a concert party from Leicester. **Following the concert, we can see from the next article that it was only a matter of weeks before the Institute hut had been erected.**

Coalville Times - Friday 5th December 1919

The monthly meeting of the Ashby Food Committee was held at the Food Offices on Satueday. Mr. G. R. Blakeway presiding. Several applications to start businesses were granted.

GRIFFYDAM RED TRIANGLE INSTITUTE

An application was received for sugar for the 'Red Triangle Institute' at Griffydam. They stated that they had 75 to 80 members on the average, and asked for an allowance of 4lbs of sugar per week, and 2llbs per month additional for tea and coffee, from now until May 15.

Mr. Musson said they could recommend it, but caterers did not get an allowance for coffee and tea, and the application was for a rather large allowance.

Mrs Pratt said they were trying to establish these institutes in every village in Leicestershire.

The Chairman : If it does good we should recommend it.

Mrs. Pratt said it was rather a large amount.

Mr Parker asked why we should allow sugar for places of recreation? They could not get it in their homes, but if they joined a club they could.
Mrs. Pratt said that if they had tea at a restaurant, they got sugar.
Mr Parker : Not all of them.
Mr Musson : They get an allowance for it.

It was agreed to recommend an allowance of 1lb of sugar per week.

Although no local memories or photographs are known to have survived of the Griffydam Red Triangle Institute, the above newspaper articles confirm that one existed in Griffydam after the First World War in 1919. The term Red triangle is thought to commonly refer to village institutes and war memorial clubs affiliated with the YMCA - whose logo was a red triangle. Griffydam appeared to be in the forefront of this movement

Red Triangle Institutes, clubs and huts were community, social and welfare centres established or inspired by the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association who official emblem was a red triangle, representing the unity of the Spirt, Mind and Body.

During World war One, the YMCA erected thousands of 'Red Triangle' tents, marquees. and wooden huts at military camps and near the front lines in Europe and the Middle East.





These spaces offered soldiers a safe, home-like refuge to rest, write letters home, drink tea, eat wholesome food and attend concerts, films, and lectures away from the stresses of combat. By September 1917, YMCA was responsible for 150 munitions worker canteens, serving around 200,000 workers daily - and at one point canteens were opening at the rate of six per month. In addition they had ten hostels accomodating 3,000 mem

After WWI, many surplus or dismantled military YMCA wooden huts (often called 'Red Triangle Huts') were purchased by local communities and re-erected in British villages and towns as War Memorials.

Operating under a Christian and civic ethos, these institutes hosted education classes, youth groups, dances, whist drives, and community gatherings aimed at promoting mental, physical and social wellbeing.