



Swannington Miners' Welfare Institute 1932

Some men of grit and good repute,
Said they would build an institute.
They set about the thing with vim,
And approached the "Welfare", for the 'tin'.

The committee met at "Robin Hood"
And talked of schemes they thought were good
Tom Walker brought his questionnaire
And half committee he did scare.

As months passed by the scheme dragged on,
The public thought interest had gone.
But then of course they did not know,
Committee work it is so slow.

Then Parish Council they did meet,
And talked as if 'twould be a treat
For councillors to help them out
In this grand scheme they'd set about.

The Parish Council soon agreed,
To help committee in their need.
And promised that they'd do their best,
If public now would show interest.

The "Hospital" they thought they'd sound,
To see if they would give them ground
On which to build this institute
Then all the Parish it would suit.

The "Hospital" trustees were met
Upon the date that they had set.
The meeting was at "Manor Farm".
And committee did their chairman charm

He soon did promise to give land,
On which this institute could stand.
And said he hoped they'd all agree,
That there should be a Lawyer's fee.

Now that the site was fixed upon,
They thought it half the battle won.
But several years did pass away,
Before they did that lawyer pay.

As years passed by nothing was done,
No building raised to look upon.
And if of institute one spoke,
Some looked upon it as a joke.



Then all at once the news went round
A new committee had been found
This building scheme to undertake
And hoped of it success to make.

This team of men, a full score strong
Did with the business get along
They did an architect engage
Then building plans were all the rage.

Now half this number did fall out,
All they were fit for was to shout.
So now was left just five or six
The building contract price to fix.

When it was built they all appeared
Afraid of the monster they had reared.
They left the place minus a gate
And would not fix an opening date.

Some wit who thought he's cause to rant
Called institute, "White Elephant."
So now you see they'd cause to fear
This institute had cost them dear.

Then once again they got in line,
And fixed upon an opening time.
Committee thought a good whist drive
Would be the thing to make it thrive.

And then they said we'll have a dance,
So every one will have a chance
To help us on this noted day
So that the opening's sure to pay.

The dance it was a great success,
Folks came in crowds, no doubt you'll guess.
A few of them got out of hand,
Of course they'd followed 'Father's Band.'

The whist drive, too, was popular,
They came to it from near and far.
But all were aiming for one goal,
The prize, it was a ton of coal.

After this night all doubts dispelled,
All pessimistic voices quelled.
Committee said we've made repute,
In having built this institute.