ARBUTHNOT HALL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1st September 1902: Wonersh Parish Council Minutes of 1st September 1902: "Shamley Green Reading Room. A letter was read by the Chairman addressed by Mr Hodgson in which he asked the Council to accept from Mrs Arbuthnot and himself the freehold of this building which it was proposed to enlarge and make very attractive and useful."

17th September, 1902: Wonersh Parish Council Minutes of 17th September, 1902: "Shamley Green Reading Room and Institute. Mr Swayne proposed and Mr Baker seconded the following resolution which was unanimously carried: 'The Wonersh Parish Council accept with gratitude the generous offer of Mrs Arbuthnot to give them the freehold of a completed building in Shamley Green to be used as a library and Institute and called the 'The Arbuthnot Institute' in memory of the late Mr F F Arbuthnot.

12th November 1904: On 12th November 1904 a foundation stone was laid by Mrs Arbuthnot. This was reported in the Surrey Advertiser of 19th November 1904 "SHAMLEY GREEN – THE 'ARBUTHNOT' INSTITUTE. The work of erecting the new building in connection with the 'Arbuthnot' Institute has now made rapid progress, and the foundation stone was laid at noon on Saturday by Mrs. F. F. Arbuthnot. The stone bore the simple inscription: - "This stone was laid by Mrs. Arbuthnot, on Nov. 12th, 1904." The ceremony, which was quite an informal one, there being no speech-making of any kind, was witnessed by several ladies and gentlemen interested in the Institute…………."

31st May 1905: The building was opened Wednesday 31st May 1905. Walter Guthrie, Elinor Arbuthnot's youngest and ninth child from her previous marriage, gave the opening speech. Walter had lived much of his life at Upper House, Shamley Green. He was MP for Bow and Bromley Division of Tower Hamlets. He spoke of his step-father's love of books stating; *'That in books one would find friends for all time and for all days'.* Walter Guthrie concluded 'I *dedicate this Hall to the glory of God, to the memory of Foster Fitzgerald Arbuthnot and to the use of the public for ever'.*