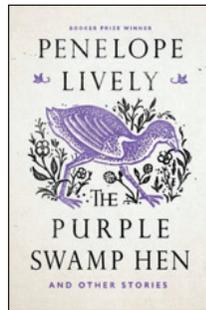
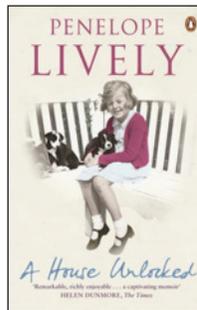
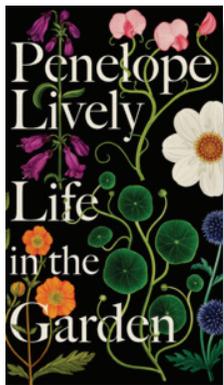


evidence of the sincerity of attachment local people have for their village hall and recreation ground.

After 90 years of use how many memories of clubs, societies, gatherings and events must the hall and recreation ground prompt? How many family parties and occasions have they played host to? How many performers and visitors from all corners of the world and the UK have been welcomed here?

To celebrate 90 years we would like to try and collect some of the many memories associated with our hall and recreation ground. Please send your memorable stories or anecdotes to Mary Coles, our Village Trust secretary, [mary.vanderhook@gmail.com](mailto:mary.vanderhook@gmail.com) and we will include them in a special exhibition as part of a Roadwater Archive at this year's Annual Summer Fete on Saturday, 28th July.

And don't forget the coffee morning tomorrow where you can pick up your square for the project to create a 90th anniversary wall-hanging!



A huge thank you to everyone who has assisted to help make this evening a success.

## SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

# AN EVENING WITH PENELOPE LIVELY

Supporting our effort to buy the village shop and marking 90 years of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground



ROADWATER VILLAGE HALL

**P**enelope Lively is enjoying a long, award-winning career with her latest book, 'Life In The Garden' receiving the positive reviews that have become customary for her work

Born in Cairo, Egypt, where her father was manager at The National Bank of Egypt, Penelope's first brief visit to Golsoncott was in September, 1939, aged six. She would return regularly from 1945 onwards.

Sent to a London boarding school aged twelve, Penelope would spend school holidays at the Golsoncott home of her maternal grandparents. Her grandfather, Frank Norman Reckitt, had died in 1941. Penelope's book, 'A House Unlocked' tells many Golsoncott stories related to the people, objects and spaces in and around the house. Each is a starting point for a larger connection with world events and changes in attitudes and tastes from the late 19th century to the close of the 20th. The book is also a testament to Penelope's close relationship with both her grandmother, Beatrice, who died in 1975, and with her aunt, the artist, blacksmith and sculptor, Rachel Reckitt. Since Rachel's death in 1995, Penelope has continued to visit Golsoncott, staying at Forches Garden, originally designed and built by her grandfather in 1929 as a home for the gardener's family.

Penelope is a trustee for 'The Golsoncott Foundation', a charitable trust formed out of her aunt's estate in 1998. In the past 20 years the trust has donated over a million pounds 'supporting Music, Ballet, Theatre, Museums, Literature, the Fine Arts and Crafts and Scholarship.'  
[www.golsoncott.org.uk](http://www.golsoncott.org.uk)

Penelope's talk tonight is in support for our effort to buy the village shop and is also an opportunity to mark the 90th anniversary of her grandparent's gift of the village hall to the local people.



**S**hortly before 3 o'clock on 'Empire Day', 24th May, 1928, The Roadwater Band led a procession of children to Day's Meadow where they "formed up in orderly fashion in front of a farm waggon, which, for the nonce, was used as a platform" for Capt. Bridges of Croydon Hall, his wife and his daughter, plus Norman and Beatrice Reckitt. There were speeches, thanks to the Bridges' family for the gift of the recreation ground and afterwards there were "sports and a free tea for the children, skittling etc for the adults. The band also added to the general enjoyment." (WS Free Press)

At 6 o'clock there was further ceremony in front of the village hall building site where once two small stone cottages had stood. Here, Mrs Beatrice Reckitt laid the foundation stone for the village hall. The hall was designed by her architect husband, Frank Norman Reckitt, and given as a gift to the people of the locality to commemorate the couple's silver wedding anniversary. Completed in the autumn it was officially opened on October 27th when the children of Leighland School were granted an extra day's holiday to join the celebrations.

The events of this day had been planned for some time. Captain Bridges had purchased Day's Meadow and agreed to the use of a small portion of the land so that the split-level hall could stand slightly back from the road making effective use of the 3.5 metre drop from road to field level. Local representatives had been informed of their plans at a meeting in Golsoncott House, where they were asked to support the success of the project by becoming the first trustees to manage and ensure the good use of both the ground and the hall.

90 years on and it's impossible to think of Roadwater without its hall and its recreation ground. Last season the ground was home to five cricket teams at least. The annual summer fete draws people from a wide area and everyone who visits Roadwater is envious of our *Big Slide*. 'How have you managed to hang on to that?' is the usual question. Because, from the first meeting at Golsoncott House where residents agreed to become trustees, right through to the present day, local people have played their part in developing the facilities so generously given in 1928. Just last year the addition of the patio area, with the help of an extremely generous gift from Brian Pring, provided further