

Ancient Order of Foresters 1861-1888
Wardour Lodge



Marching across the bridge towards the Arundell Arms Hotel (c1910)
This is almost certainly a parade of the Wardour Lodge of Foresters – they carried
much larger banners at the head of processions than the Oddfellows.

1861 On Wednesday last, this little village presented a very gay scene, on the occasion of the Wardour Lodge of British Foresters holding their fête. The weather for a few days previous was stormy, but the morning of Wednesday was beautifully fine, the sun shining in all its splendour, which acted with a power almost magical on the spirits of the inhabitants.

As early as seven o'clock, flags were being hoisted at different parts of the parish, also on the church tower, the bells of which again sent out their "notes of invitation" to all the neighbourhood. At half past ten, a procession was formed at the Lodge-room, headed by a brother bearing a stag's head, with an appropriate device hanging on a rail supported by the two horns, followed by a splendid silk banner of the order, on one side of which was painted a representation of a Forester's widow with her fatherless child weeping over the grave of her departed husband, surmounted by the words, "We succour the widows and orphans". On the other side was painted the Foresters' coat of arms. Next came the Tisbury brass band, then the officers of the lodge walking two and two, each wearing a green silk scarf, decorated with silver stars and tassels, tied with a silver bee-hive, carrying a spear, followed by another brother bearing a small banner, with the words "Let brotherly love continue" then the members, wearing green scarves, with stars, &c., some with horns and carrying spears, others carrying bows and arrows; lastly two brothers bearing another beautiful banner.

They then commenced perambulating the village, during which they were joined by the Rev. the Vicar, J L Green, Esq., honorary surgeon, and a large number of the respectable inhabitants of the place who walked with them to the church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev F E Hutchinson, from 2 Cor. V. 14-15. The musical part of the service was creditably performed by the choir. The service was Boyce in C; anthem, "Give the Lord", Kent; and "Behold how good and joyful", Whitfield. Mr E Osmond presided at the organ.

The procession re-forming, wended their way to a spacious marquee, in a field near the railway station, where Brother Woods (Arundell Arms) had provided a most sumptuous spread. The Rev. the Vicar occupied the chair, and having said grace, the quality of the viands was soon made manifest by the quick way in which they disappeared, the unusual loyal and other toasts were proposed and responded to, when dancing commenced with many other amusements, including the popular game of "Aunt Sally", quoits, climbing a pole for hats, &c., which were fully entered into by several hundreds of people till the hour of separation arrived, when the company, one by one, returned to their homes. Thus terminated a most successful and pleasant day. We sincerely wish the Wardour Lodge of the British Foresters prosperity and success to their next merry meeting.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 20 July 1861

1863 Wednesday last was a grand day at this pleasant and rural village, it being the day announced for the Foresters Fete. Additional interest was imparted to the proceedings from the fact that the members of the Tisbury branch of the Wilts Friendly Society had determined to amalgamate with the Foresters, and join in the festival.

Accordingly, shortly before eleven o'clock, the members of both societies formed a procession at the Arundell Arms, and, headed by the Ebbesbourne Band, and carrying appropriate flags and banners, marched in procession to the church, where a choral service was held. The prayers were read by the Rev J H K Ward, curate of Tisbury, and an excellent sermon preached by the vicar, the Rev F E Hutchinson. After the service, the members of the two societies returned to a tent in a field lent for the occasion by Mr George Osmond, where a good and substantial dinner was served up by Mr Wood, landlord of the Arundell Arms.

In various parts of the tent, the following mottoes were displayed: Prosperity to the Wardour Lodge of British Foresters, Honour and Virtue, Come and join the Foresters, Love and Unity, May our Endeavours be Crowned with Success, May God Protect the Widows and Orphans, Success to the Wardour Lodge of Foresters

About 200 ladies and gentlemen and members of the societies sat down to dinner, amongst whom we noticed Lord Arundell (president), Rev Prebendary Fane, Mr T F Grove (High Sheriff), Rev F E Hutchinson, Mr Vere Fane Benett, Mr E D Fane, Mr Green, Mr Standing, Miss Snook, Mr Bracher the Misses Bracher, Mr Perrett, Mr James Scammell, Mr Osmond, the Misses Osmond, Mr Lush, Mr Thorpe &c. A number of excellent speeches were made and in the evening there was every description of amusement.
Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 23 July 1863

- 1867 Thursday last seemed to be a general holiday for the good folks of the quiet village of Tisbury and the surrounding neighbourhood. The occasion was the join annual festival of the members of the Wardour Lodge of Foresters and the Tisbury branch of the Wilts Friendly Society; and as the weather fortunately proved very favourable, there was a large gathering of the members of both societies and their friends.

The proceedings commenced shortly before eleven o'clock, when a procession was formed at the Arundell Arms Hotel, and headed by the Ebbesborne excellent brass band, the foresters having their usual regalia, and the members of the Wilts Friendly Society having as usual their white rosettes with a medal. At church an appropriate sermon was preached to them by the Rev E H Elers, of Fovant, who took for his text 2 Thes. iii. 10, "If any would not work neither should he eat."

After the service they reformed in procession, and marched to a meadow opposite the railway station, the use of which had been kindly given for the occasion by Mr Osmond. About one o'clock they sat down to a very good dinner supplied by Mr F G Woods (Arundell Arms), in a large marquee erected in the meadow. Mr T F Grove, M.P., presided and the company numbered about 150, amongst those present being the Rev F E Hutchinson, vicar of Tisbury, Rev E H Elers, of Fovant, Mr Du Boulay, Mr J D Allen, Mr Green, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Green, Mr J H Bracher, Mr W Wilkins, Mr Alford, Mr B W Thorpe, Mr Jeffreys, Mr Shere, &c. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were of course duly honoured.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 03 August 1867

- 1888 On Thursday evening, January 26th, the annual supper in connection with "Court Wardour Castle", A.O.F., was held in the Court-room, South Western Hotel. The caterer was Bro. H Woods, the repast being served in excellent style. The chair was taken by Mr J A Ensor, MRCS and the vice chair by Bro. H Lever.

The following gentlemen supported the Chairman: Bros. J King, H Smith, J R West, W Toms, W Kendal, W Davey (secretary).

Among those present were Messrs R Harrison, H Stone, Andrews, Green, Coombs, Lever, Parham, J Thorne, S Sharp, A Bubb, Corpl H Palmer (West Kent Regiment), Smart, J Lever, Humphries, Bailey, S Baker, J Rixon, Pte J Peckham R.E., H Northover, jun., A Leaney MRCVS, Ford, A Bailey, T Kemp, J Vincent, H Woods, E Fray, F Burton, Ford, W Green, E Titt, J Churchill, Coleman, W Baker, H True, F Bailey, T Ford, J Kemp, F Love, C Bridle, J Webber, H Ford, J Wastfield, H Wilkins, T Shergold, J Moxham, G Harrison, J Harrison, J Beacham, S Lever, J Spencer, M Butt, S Mullens, C Harrison.

The loyal toasts having been drunk, "The Army and Navy and Reserve Forces" was coupled with the names of Private J Peckham and Corporal H Palmer. "The Health of the Chairman" was proposed by Bro. H Lever, and drunk with musical honours. After the Chairman had briefly responded, he left the chair, which was then taken by Bro. Toms (Chief Ranger). A song, "The Belle of the Ball" was sung by Mr J Beacham, followed by the toast "Prosperity to Court Wardour Castle". Next came a song "Old Simon the Cellarer" sung by Mr J Kemp, after which Mr Toms proposed "The Health of the Vice Chairman, Bro. H Lever".

Mr Toms spoke of the great interest which Mr Lever had always taken in the court and said that the present satisfactory state of the Court was in a great measure due to Mr Lever. Mr J Lever then sang "The Ship that Never Returned", after which the health of the Host and Hostess, (Bro. H and Mrs Woods) was drunk with musical honours. The two toasts were submitted, "The Visitors" and "The Press". After several further songs had been given, this social evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.
Western Gazette Friday 03 February 1888