

Church Fete in Aid of the Renovation Fund 1926



In spite of misfortune in the weather, the East Knoyle Church Council and members of the congregation who were responsible for a fete held at Knoyle House on Wednesday, in aid of the Church Renovation Fund, cheerfully carried on and were rewarded by being able, after all, to register a successful effort.

The programme was essentially an outdoor one, but the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, who had thrown open her beautiful grounds, extended the privilege by making a portion of the house available for accommodation of the stalls. A last minute transference of some of the attractions, to a large extent, effectively combated the unpromising conditions. While the sale of fancy articles, flowers, and other things was thus carried on indoors, the competitions and other attractions proceeded on the lawns during the intervals in the showers. The fete was to have been opened by the Countess of Radnor, but the Rector, Rev W Neville, explained at the opening that she had an important engagement in London. In her absence, the ceremony was performed by Mrs Mosslemann of Clouds House, the Rector presiding.

The object of the fete was to help clear off a debt of £160 incurred in the recent cleaning of the church and the overhauling of the organ. Had the weather been fine, it is probable that the greater portion of this sum would have been realised. It was, indeed appropriate that this effort should have coincided with the completion by the Rector of 50 years' ministry. Among the visitors were Lady Evan Thomas, Mrs Ansdell and Mrs Leslie.

The Rector's Optimism

The Rector, in introducing Mr and Mrs Mosselmann, said he wished they could have had a more prosperous-looking day but they were all smiling and happy and he hoped as the afternoon went on, the sun would come out. Some people said, and there was something to be said on their behalf, that it was bad to have anything of that sort for church purposes, but the problem was how to get the money. It happened just now that they did want some money - £160. As it happened to be Derby-day, he would like to draw their attention to a wonderful equestrian exhibition (laughter). Concluding, the Rector expressed thanks to the many people who had been working hard for many weeks past to make the fete a success, particularly the working part at the Rectory, Lady Pembroke, Colonel Herbert and all the others who had helped. Mrs Mosselmann then declared the fete open in a humorous speech.

After the efforts to accommodate the arrangements to the adverse weather conditions, the only really ill effect was upon the attendance, but this was in some degree counteracted by the fact that those who did attend, and in the circumstances, the attendance was gratifying, purchased liberally, with the result that the stocks on the many and varied stalls were mostly cleared by the end of the day.

Attractions

The Church Council, of which Colonel the Hon George Herbert is the secretary, were primarily responsible for the arrangements, with the assistance of other members of the congregation, while a good many of the articles displayed on the stalls were the product of many weeks' work by a working party, under the direction of Lady Pembroke, Mrs Neville and others. A stall containing dolls &c was under the direction of Lady Pembroke; Fancy Stall Miss Phyllis Wilkinson and Miss W Stephens; Fancy and useful Articles, Barbola work and Wooden Toys Mrs Neville and the church working party; Pictures Mrs Slocock; Sweets Mrs Barnes and Mrs Jones; Knoyle House and Rectory garden produce and flower stall Mr Speed and Miss F Brown; "Bunty Pulls the Strings" Miss Jacob and Miss Alice Francis.

Novelties

Among the outdoor attractions there were two interesting novelties introduced by Mr and Mrs Fulford, who have recently returned to East Knoyle from Rutlandshire, Mr Fulford having been appointed to the Knoyle House Estate as Head Gardener.

One of the novelties was a "Bucking Horse", an exceedingly amusing and profitable device to defy the saddle prowess of the most agile horseman. Colonel Herbert was one of the few who could keep their saddle. Mr Mosselmann failed hopelessly. Mr R Bartlett and Mr D Harris were in charge of this. The other novelty was living whist, which is an extremely effective spectacle, with all the elements of the familiar card game introduced in a series of dances to music. Fifty-two persons took part, each dressed in a costume to represent a card in the pack, with Mr Barnes as the joker. It is understood to be new to this district and arrangements have been made to carry it out at Salisbury shortly. There were, in addition a Mousetrap, under Mr E W Chubb; Coconut Shies, Messrs A Garrett, Miles, Bert King and Noyce; Bowling for a Pig Mr F Alford and Mr R Jesse. Assistance was also rendered as gatekeepers by Messrs Slocock, Fowler, Tuck, Gillett, F Littlecott and R Speed. Mere Brass Band provided the music during the afternoon, accompanied the living whist and played for dancing late in the evening.

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