



Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity 1869 - 1914

Wardour Lodge (formed 1867)

- 1869 On Wednesday last, the Wardour lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity, held their anniversary festival at Tisbury, and on this occasion, they were joined by the local branch of the Wilts Friendly Society, so that the demonstration was not only more imposing, but had a doubly interesting character. The day was regarded as a general holiday throughout the surrounding district, and the whole fete was in every respect a complete success.

About half-past ten in the morning, the members of both societies formed in procession at the Arundell Arms Inn, and, accompanied by the Ebbesborne brass band, walked through the district to the church, where a very excellent and appropriate sermon was preached to them by the vicar, the Rev F E Hutchinson.

At the close of the service, the procession was reformed and the members and their friends marched to the fete ground, a meadow opposite the railway station. Here a large marquee, belonging to Mr S Naish of Harnham, had been erected and upwards of 200 sat down to a very excellent dinner which was capitally served up by Mr F G Woods of the Arundell Arms.

(part article only) Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 17 July 1869

- 1870 The annual meeting of the Salisbury District of Oddfellows took place at the Wardour Lodge-room, Arundell Arms Hotel, Tisbury, on Wednesday last. Ten lodges were represented by their delegates, who, together with the district officers, transacted the usual business.

The business having been completed, the brethren sat down to a substantial dinner provided by Host F Woods, whose catering was much appreciated.

(part article only) Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 01 January 1870

- 1871 WARDOUR LODGE OF ODDFELLOWS, WILTS FRIENDLY SOCIETY, Tisbury Branch and Court Grosvenor ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS. The Public are respectfully informed that the above Societies intend holding a Joint FESTIVAL, on WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th, 1871, in a meadow opposite the Railway Station. A procession of the members will be formed at the Arundell Arms Inn at 10.30 a.m., headed by a splendid Brass Band and will thence walk in Procession to Church.

A PUBLIC DINNER will be provided by Bro. F.G. Woods, at One p.m., in a spacious marquee. T.F. GROVE, ESQ., M.P. has kindly consented to preside. Tickets 2s 6d each, to be obtained of Bro. G. Laney, Bro. C. Russell, G. Ponton, Secretary, Mr Jas Lush, Mrs Singleton, and at the Arundell Arms, for which an early application is requested. AMUSEMENTS, including Concert, Rural Sports, Racing, &c. &c. The whole will conclude with A GRAND DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

Admission to the Meadow, 6d; Children under 12, half-price. Holders of Dinner Tickets, Free. The Train passing Tisbury at 9.5 p.m. will stop to take up passengers to Dinton, Wilton and Salisbury
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 01 July 1871

- 1881 On Wednesday, the "Loyal Wardour" Lodge, No 3,601, of Oddfellows, and the Juvenile Lodge, held a grand fete at Tisbury, in a meadow near the station kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Cuff. A procession of the members was formed at the Arundell Arms Hotel and preceded by the Band of the Royal Wilts Yeomanry Cavalry, from Salisbury, marched to the old Parish Church. Here an appropriate sermon was preached by the Vicar, Rev F E Hutchinson.

After the service, the procession was again formed. The large and imposing banner of the Lodge was carried first, and was followed by the Band, ably conducted by Mr Jones. Next came about 25 of the brethren, followed by some of the principal officers of the Society. The spirited Drum and Fife Band of the Juvenile Oddfellows came next and was followed by a large muster of the juvenile members.

After parading the principal streets, the company proceeded to a large tent in the field where Bro F G Woods, of the Arundell Arms, had supplied a first rate dinner. About 130 sat down, the chair being occupied by Mr J H Bracher who was supported by Mr J A Ensor (medical officer), the Rev F E Hutchinson, Mr J Kemp, and others. The vice chair was taken by Mr G Leaney (treasurer) who was supported by Mr W Hill (secretary) and other officers of the Society.
(part article only) Western Gazette Friday 09 September 1881

- 1888 In connection with the Loyal "Wardour" and Juvenile Lodges of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, a grand fête was held on Wednesday. The weather in the earlier part of the day as very stormy, but brightened as the day wore on.

The members assembled at their lodge-room at 10.30, and formed into procession in full regalia. Accompanied by their officers and the Tisbury and Wardour Brass Band, headed by a magnificent banner, they marched to the Parish Church, where a choral service was held.

After service, the village was perambulated and the members then proceeded to dinner, which was laid out in a creditable manner in the Victoria Hall, the caterer being Mr Frank Love, of the Benett Arms Hotel. Sir Thomas Fraser Grove, Bart., M.P., presided, supported by the Rev F E Hutchinson (vicar), Rev L L Havard (curate), Colonel Best, Dr Ensor, Messrs Northover (2), H Woods, J Wastfield, J Howell, Kendall, W Toms, Hopkinson, J Kemp, Randall, Whately, G Langdon, Styring, H J Lever, &c., the company numbering about 200.

The toasts relating to Royalty having been heartily received, the Chairman proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese and Ministers of other Christian Denominations." He was sure that they were all happy to have among them such a gentleman as their esteemed Vicar. (Cheers).

Mr William Hill, who was loudly applauded on rising, said that the Lodge was opened on October 5th, 1868, with a capital of £224 0s 3d and 45 members. Six years afterwards it had only increased to £413 8s 9d and 62 members. During the last 14½ years (his tenure of office as secretary) it had increased to a capital of £1,528 18s 2d and 170 members - (cheers) - an increase of £1,112 12s 3½d and 108 members. Since the Lodge had been started £1,485 9s 3d had been paid for deaths and sickness.

Mr Reuben Watson, actuary to the Manchester Unity, reporting on the affairs of the "Wardour" Lodge on April 5th, 1887, said: "The necessary care for ensuring accuracy appears to have been bestowed on the preparation of particulars for this valuation, and they are found to be perfectly satisfactory. The sickness experienced has been generally moderate; it has not fully reached the average of the valuation data. The expenses of management are provided by equal rates of contribution per member, and the sufficiency of these for the purposes of the fund is proved by the balance in hand. The valuation brings out a surplus of the present value of £228. This will perhaps remain if the experience of the Lodge and the data from the calculations are made are found to correspond. The management of the affairs of the "Wardour" Lodge gives evidence of zeal and care, and much of its success is due to the exercise of these qualities, so that between proper management and favourable sickness a satisfactory and sound condition has been maintained."

With regard to the juvenile lodge, it was opened on July 7th, 1875, with 24 members. The present number of members was 94, and they had 12 to make at their next meeting, which would bring their total up to 106. Their total capital amounted to £110 19s 2d.

During the 13 years they had been established they had paid £42 18s 1d for sick benefits. They had also refunded to 36 members £103 5s 6d on being transferred to the adult lodge. Taking the two lodges together (the adult and juvenile) they had 276 members with a total capital of £1,639 17s 4d. He then turned his attention to the Salisbury district, which, he said, consisted of 14 Lodges, 2,998 members, with a capital of £23,526 8s 2½d, being an increase of 167 members and £2,124 10s on the year. Speaking of the Manchester Unity, he said that up to the end of 1886 their capital was £6,548,229, the annual income being £881,695, of which £650,296 was from member's contributions. In conclusion, he appealed for more assistance by way of honorary membership, their present total of honorary members in that rich district being only two, whereas they ought to have at least 30.

The Chairman proposed "The Host and Hostess," and spoke in eulogistic terms of the catering of Mr Love. (The toast was heartily drunk) Mr Love suitably returned thanks, and the proceedings terminated. The procession once more re-formed, and marched to a field kindly lent by Dr Ensor. There, all kinds of amusements were provided, and the bands kept dancers pretty busy. A list of sports was also gone through, with the following results, Colonel Best acting as judge, and Mr. W. Hill as starter:

Flat race, members of the Lodge only, over 30 years of age 1st W. Green; 2nd O. Russ
Ditto, from 18-30 years of age 1st W. Burton; 2nd A. Smart
Flat race, twice round the course for members of the juvenile lodge
14-18 yrs of age 1st G. Hacker; 2nd A. Alford; 3rd H. Wright.
Ditto, 10 to 14 years of age 1st W. Hill; 2nd W. Davis.
Ditto, 6 to 10 years of age 1st W. Baker; 2nd A. Tulk.
Obstacle race 1st O. Russ; 2nd A. Mould.
Rolling tub race 1st A. Smart; 2nd H. Wright.

Everything passed off successfully. The attendance was large, and the efforts of the energetic Committee were much appreciated.
(part article only) Western Gazette Friday 13 July 1888

1891 The twenty-third anniversary of the formation of the above Lodge of Oddfellows was celebrated on Wednesday, when a fete and dinner were held. For several years past "Loyal Wardour" Lodge has encountered most unpropitious weather for its anniversary gatherings, and the present was no exception to what may be regarded as a "general rule".

Between ten and eleven o'clock those members taking part in the fete, numbering about 180, met at the Oddfellows Hall, and to the music of the Wardour and Tisbury Brass Bands, respectively conducted by Mr B Foyle and Mr J Rixen, they made complimentary calls at the residence of Dr Ensor (medical officer of the lodge) and the Vicarage (Rev F E Hutchinson's) and then proceeded to the Parish Church, which they entered to the music of the National Anthem, played by the bands.

A sermon was preached by the Vicar founded upon St Matthew ii., 3rd verse. The organist (Mr E Osmond) accompanied on the organ the musical portion of the service. Leaving church, a visit was paid to Place Farm, where the processionists were accorded a most hearty reception by Mr J H Bracher.

From here an adjournment was made to a field, placed at the service of the committee by Dr Ensor, and where, under Messrs Hudson & Martin's large marquee, Host Cuff of the Arundell Arms, had a substantial dinner awaiting. (part article only). Western Gazette Friday 03 July 1891

- 1899 Mr Benett-Stanford presided at a dinner in connection with the Wardour Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows, held at the Victoria Hall on Thursday evening. He was supported by Revs. F E Hutchinson and W S Hulme, Dr Ensor, Captain Ensor, Mr Pinkham, Mr John Howell, Mr Lovell, Mr Kelly, Mr Wheeler, Messrs R, A, and A Hibberd, jun, Mr Seamark, Mr Westfield, Mr Corp, &c.

The loyal toasts having been honoured, that of "The Bishop and Clergy" was given from the chair, the Vicar responding. "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" was proposed by Mr. Wheeler, coupled with the name of Mr Bennett-Stanford. The Chairman, in responding, remarked that he had served the Queen in many capacities, first in the Eton Volunteers, then in the Militia, from which he went into the Regular Army, and was at the present time in the Yeomanry. Referring to the Soudan campaign he said he thought it his duty to contradict certain reports which had appeared in the newspapers of late with regard to the slaughter of wounded Dervishes at the battle of Omdurman. He was himself present at the battle with Lieut. Morrison.

He (Mr Benett-Stanford) was acting as a War Correspondent, and he could safely say the wounded were properly treated. There were no cases of British soldiers killing the wounded, although the Army had to pass over the field of battle. Many of the wounded shot at their victors when marching in line over the field, and the Remingtons were simply taken from them by the British.

There might have been a few cases where the wounded were bayoneted by Soudanese soldiers, but that would be when they (the wounded) continued to fire at the Soudanese after the battle was won, and if those present knew the men, they would understand the necessity. The Dervishes, although shot in the legs or body, would continue to fire.

The toast of the "Wardour Lodge" was coupled with the name of the Secretary (Mr Hill), who replied. "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr T Wilkins, and responded to by Mr Pinkham, of Salisbury, and "The Health of the Host and Hostess" was also heartily drunk. Mr Griffin suitably replied.

During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs Dennis and Sheppard, of Salisbury, Mr Seamark, of Chilmark, Mr Wheeler, Mr J Russell, and others. Mr F H Hinton was at the piano.
Western Gazette Friday 20 January 1899

- 1914 The Wardour Lodge of Oddfellows held a fete on Wednesday in the Vicarage Field, kindly lent by Mr R Westfield. In the morning the members paraded the streets and attended service at the Parish Church. The Rev C A Hutchinson read the prayers, and an excellent address was given by the Rev G Williams, rector of Chilmark.

Dinner was served in a large marquee (lent by Mr Hugh Morrison) in the fete field. Mr W R Shaw-Stewart presided over a company numbering about 165, including the Grand Master of the Salisbury district (Bro A J Cuff, Fovant), the deputy Grand Master (Bro A E Doughty, Whaddon), the Rev C A Hutchinson, the Rev G Williams, Mr E E Hibberd, Mr J White, Mr G A Bull, Mr Walsh, Bros H J Penny (secretary to the Wardour Lodge), W Cuff (treasurer), H Targett, GM, S Langdon, Geo Ponton, jun., F Woods, and the following representatives of Court "Wardour Castle" of the Ancient Order of Foresters - Messrs R Lush (secretary), W W Kendall (treasurer), G E Lush, R F Harrison, E Barber, A Moxham, C Lever, H Mouny, &c. The loyal toasts were very heartily drunk, on the proposition of the Chairman. Mr J White gave "The Bishop, and Clergy and Ministers of Religion," to which the Vicar responded.

In submitting "The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and the Wardour Lodge," Mr Shaw-Stewart spoke of the excellent work of the friendly societies on a voluntary basis, and said he thought that many years would elapse before their old principles were engulfed by the compulsory State insurance. In responding, the District Grand Master gave some interesting figures respecting the recent growth of the Manchester Unity, and aid the sick pay during the last year had been £25,000 less than their actuaries had led them to expect. This was very satisfactory. The Salisbury district had a gain in membership of 706 on the last twelve months, and its funds had increased by £7,000.

The Wardour Lodge, which was the third largest in the district, had a membership of 373 adults in the voluntary section (with 218 State Insurance members). In 1913 the Lodge paid out an average of £9 16s per week to sick members, the total claims amounting to £356 13s 6d on the voluntary side, and £144 0s 8d on the State section. The benefit funds, however, had reached £5,555, an increase of £130 9s 5d on the year's working. The Deputy Grand Master and the Lodge Secretary also responded.

"The health of the Chairman" was cordially drunk on the proposition of Mr G E Lush. Bro Targett gave "The Visitors", for whom Mr Walsh replied; and the toast-list concluded with "The Host", submitted by Mr R Lush, and acknowledged by Mr J W Harrison. In the field skittle matches, sports and dancing were the principal amusements.
Western Gazette Friday 24 July 1914