

Wiltshire Friendly Society

East Knoyle Branch 1847 - 1912



- 1847 The anniversary meeting of the Donhead St Andrew, St Mary, Tollard Royal and East Knoyle branches of the Wilts Friendly Society was held at Donhead St Andrew on Tuesday last, the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., under the presidency of T H S Sotheron, Esq., M.P., Honorary Secretary of the Society, who, with his wonted kindness and condescension, came from Bowden Park expressly to be present on the occasion. The members, amounting to about 150, attended Divine service at the church of Donhead St Andrew and thence went in procession to the National school room of the adjoining parish of Donhead St Mary, where an excellent dinner was supplied by Mr Barter of Ludwell.

Among the members present on the festive occasion were noticed T H S Sotheron, Esq (in the chair), supported by Dr Grove, the rectors of Donhead St Andrew and St Mary, M R Jefferies, Esq., T White, Esq., the Rev C H Grove, C Austen, I H Samler, W Bedford, E Peacock, S Williams, J Hamilton, H Mair, &c. Mrs Sotheron, Mrs Jefferies and many ladies of the neighbourhood honoured the meeting with their presence, which was further enlivened by appropriate toasts and speeches and concluded with music and dancing, in which the president and his friends took an active part.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal 24 July 1847

- 1867 The members of the East Knoyle Benefit Society held their 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Black Horse Inn, they met in their club room at 10 o'clock, when they marched in procession to the church, headed by the Fontmell brass band. An excellent sermon was preached by the rector, the Rev R N Milford, from the 19<sup>th</sup> chap of Job, 25, 26 and 27 verses, to which all paid great attention. The musical portion of the service was ably rendered by the choir and gave great satisfaction. After service the members adjourned to their club-room where an excellent dinner was provided by the worthy host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Spong, in their usual style, to which all present did ample justice.

The chair was taken by the Rev R N Milford, supported by A Seymour Esq MP, Sir H Rawlinson MP, Messrs Stacey, Gray, Corbin, T Hall, Harrison, J C Perry &c. After the usual loyal and other toasts, the band playing during the intervals, the chairman gave Prosperity to the East Knoyle Black Horse Friendly Society. In the course of his remarks (after hearing from the worthy secretary, Mr W Perry), the statement of their account), the Rev chairman congratulated the members on the satisfactory state of their funds and expressed the pleasure he felt in the manner they all had conducted themselves during the past year.

Through the kindness of A Seymour Esq MP, the beautiful grounds and gardens of Knoyle House were thrown open to the members and their friends, where dancing on the lawn was kept up with spirit for two or three hours, to the lively strains of the band. The members then marched in procession to the rectory and other places in the village, where they were liberally supplied with cider, &c. Afterwards they returned to their club-room when the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony by all, and everything passed off to the satisfaction of all parties.

Western Gazette Friday 21 June 1867

- 1888 The anniversary of the East Knoyle Friendly Society was celebrated yesterday (Thursday) when the weather was gloriously fine. The members assembled at the School-room at 10 o'clock, where Mr Tanswell (the courteous secretary) transacted the preliminary business and called the roll.

The members then formed a procession and accompanied by the East Knoyle Brass Band, under Mr Burbidge, called for the Rev R N Milford (rector) and Rev E Suffrin (curate). They then attended service at the Parish Church. The opening prayers and one of the lessons were read by the Rev E Suffrin and the other lesson and prayers by the Rev R N Milford. A suitable sermon was preached by the Rector from Matthew vi.19, 21. After the service another call was made at the Rectory, where the band gave a selection of music. At one o'clock, dinner was partaken of in the School-room, which had been most chastely embellished for the occasion. The viands had been prepared under the direction of Mrs Tanswell and were spoken highly of.

The chair was taken by the Hon Percy Wyndham, supported by the Rev R N Milford, Rev E Suffrin, Mr Hole, Mr Crammond (one of the treasurers), Mr Perry and many others. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were submitted from the chair, and were well received. 'Success to the East Knoyle Friendly Society' was proposed by the chairman and, in response, Mr Tanswell said that there were at present 111 members, as compared with 112 last year this time. During the year, six new members had joined, five old members had died, and two had left the Society.

On their last anniversary they had £37 2s in hand, but this year there is only £21 10s 8d. This is accounted for by the fact that there has been a great amount of sickness and five deaths. For death and sickness they had paid out just £88. They had invested £137 14s. The Rev R N Milford gave 'The Chairman' which was received with prolonged cheering. The Hon Percy Wyndham replied 'The Visitors', 'Honorary Members' and a few minor toasts concluded the list, after which the village was perambulated, several visits paid, and a very successful festival terminated with dancing and a supper.

Western Gazette Friday 25 May 1888

1891 The anniversary of the East Knoyle Friendly Society was celebrated on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 110 members meeting at the school room where the secretary (Mr Tanswell) called the roll. Mr Tanswell had decorated the room with flowers and pot plants supplied by Lord Stalbridge and the Rector the Rev R N Milford. The procession was accompanied by the Society's flag and the East Knoyle Brass Band (leader Mr E Mathews), and visited the Rectory, afterwards going to church where the Rector, assisted by the Rev G Williams, conducted Divine service. Mr Tanswell presided at the organ.

Dinner was supplied at the school room by Mr Tanswell, the Rector presiding in the unavoidable absence of the Hon P Wyndham. Mr Tanswell was vice chairman and among the hundred and twenty guests there were also Captain Chaloner, the Rev G Williams, Messrs R S Milford, Arnold, Brown, Dowding, King, Perry, Ricketts, Sheppard, Wood, &c. The usual toasts were proposed. The financial statement shows a surplus of £46 over the expenses. There had been two deaths during the year and £5 was paid in each case. Everything passed off most satisfactorily.

Western Gazette 29 May 1891

1912 The old Friendly Society, which has been in existence over a century, having celebrated its 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary at Whitsuntide, has just concluded another seven years' term and in accordance with custom, the funds have been divided. There are two classes of sick pay and the amount disbursed to each member in the respective classes were £1 10s and £2 0 8d, a balance of £50 being held in reserve for the re-starting of the Society. In view of the large amount of sickness experienced last year, when there was also a loss of four members and two members' wives, the division was considered very satisfactory. The members at the time of division numbered 94.

Western Gazette Friday 14 June 1912