

# Wokingham in the News

(Extracts from the Reading Mercury)

1858 to 1938

*by*

*Jim Bell*



**Wokingham in the News:  
A Chronological History of Wokingham from the Reading Mercury,  
1858-1938  
© Jim Bell, 2013**

The Wokingham Society takes great pride in hosting this eBook, painstakingly produced by Jim Bell from original newspapers articles held in the Reading Central library. Jim in turn wishes to pay tribute to the late Edna Goatley, wife of the much-missed Wokingham Town historian, Ken Goatley and herself a considerable source of local history. Edna both encouraged and partially funded this enterprise and it is a pity that she is not here to see the fruits of Jim's labours.

It is Jim Bell's wish that the material he has transcribed, representing an unparalleled account of Wokingham's development from the early days of Queen Victoria's reign to the eve of the Second World War, should be accessible to anyone with an interest in the town. He asks only that those using any material (copied from the Word or PDF versions) should acknowledge its source.

So do enjoy dipping into this chronology's pages and discover for yourselves what Wokingham and its townsfolk were like in times past.

Peter Must  
Chairman  
The Wokingham Society  
September 2013

# Wokingham News from the Reading Mercury (1858 to 1938)

(All news from the Reading Mercury unless otherwise indicated)

1858

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan

Announcement of the celebration for the wedding of the Princess Royal.

Annual meeting of the Literary Society.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Feb

## WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE TRUST

At the last meeting of the Trustees of the Windsor Forest Turnpike Road we understand it was resolved at once to erect a new turnpike gate across the road near Martin's Heron in the parish of Winkfield about a mile from Bracknell towards Ascot.

Announcement of the annual meeting of the Wokingham Auxiliary Biblical Society to be held on Monday evening next at the Town Hall.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> May

## PROPOSED REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL.

For some time past a project for re-building of the Town-hall has been under consideration, but we have abstained from publishing any particulars until the intentions of the projectors had assumed such a shape as to warrant our doing so. That, we are happy to say, is now the case and therefore present the following particulars to our readers, and heartily commend the subject to their consideration and support. The dilapidated condition of the present building has long been a source of much regret to the inhabitants, but the want of the necessary funds to rebuild was found to be such an impediment that it was feared no effectual remedy could be provided; and, on the Corporation consulting an experienced architect, his report showed that any effectual reparation was impracticable, and that to expend money for the purpose would be utterly useless.

For some time past the County Police Committee have been seeking for a suitable site, at Wokingham, on which to build a police-station for the Forest division, and it was suggested that a portion of the site of the present hall would be most suitable for the purpose. The Corporation accordingly negotiated with the police committee, with a view that an arrangement might be made for blending the two objects in one erection. At the last Quarter Sessions an offer of the police committee was confirmed, by which they proposed to give the sum of £200 on condition that suitable accommodation was provided in the new building for the police requirements. The corporation are naturally anxious not to lose so eligible an opportunity of rebuilding their hall, which can be accomplished for £1,500 in addition to the county grant.

The plan embraces excellent accommodation in every respect, including a commodious Town-hall, available for municipal purposes as well as for holding the sessions of the county magistrates, and public meetings, a council chamber, a news and reading room, and accommodation for persons attending the markets, &c. To accomplish this desirable end, the funds in the hands of the corporation will supply about one third of the amount, and they earnestly request the co-operation and the

liberal assistance of their fellow-townsmen, and the residents in the neighbourhood, in raising the remaining portion of the amount.

The plans will be submitted to a public meeting, in the Town-hall, on Wednesday next, the 26<sup>th</sup> inst., at three o'clock in the afternoon, when we hope there will be a large attendance to lend a unanimous support to carry out an object of so much importance to our town; as the inconvenience of the present antiquated building has long been felt, whenever on public occasions it has been used, as the lowness of the ceiling, rendered it unfit for musical entertainments, and insufferable hot when many were present; whilst at balls, public dinners, sessions, and meetings the want of retiring rooms, and often necessary conveniences, has been always the subject of complaints and annoyance.

In the new building all these inconveniences, of course are obviated, whilst avoiding any unnecessary ornamentation, an erection of elegant design and taste will reflect much credit on Wokingham, and be found in keeping with the requirements of our increasing and improving town and neighbourhood. We will only add, at present, that communications may be addressed, and subscriptions remitted, to Mr. Edward Roberts, the town clerk

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### PROPOSED REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL

According to the announcement, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the afternoon, in the Town Hall, for the purpose of considering the propriety of adopting measures secure the rebuilding of the Town Hall in connexion with a County Police Station. There was a large number of persons present. Mr. Alderman Twycross presided. On the bench were Robert Gibson, Esq., Capt. L. Gower, R. Falconer, Esq., Messrs. W. Heelas, J.L. Roberts, W. Wheeler, T. Cooke and E. Dalley. There were in the room Mr. John Heelas, Mr. Weeks, Mr. T. Dunning, Mr. Barford, Mr. Baker, Mr. Goodchild, Mr. Watts, Mr. Meloy, &c., &c.

On the table was placed the design, prepared by Mr. J.B. Clacy, the county surveyor. It is in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and proposes to retain the old admired chimney. This, with the clock and bell turret, ninety feet in height, would have an effective and handsome appearance on entering the town from each direction. The place comprises on the ground floor, large space for covered market, room for mechanics and literary institution, fire engine house; also, guard room, cells for prisoners. Offices and yard for the county police. On the first floor are situate, the commodious Town-hall, with orchestra and suitable conveniences, the council chamber, room for Savings Bank, with strong room adjoining, and rooms and dormitories for the constabulary.

Mr. Alderman Twycross opened the proceedings of the meeting by saying, the dilapidated state of the Town Hall had long been a subject of deep concern to the Corporation, and an opportunity then presented itself of rebuilding that fabric in connexion with a County Police Station. On the state of the building being brought under the notice of the authorities they consulted an experienced architect, whose report, demonstrated that any effectual reparation was impracticable and that any outlay with that object would be quite nugatory. Soon after this report was obtained, it was made known to the corporation that the county intended to erect a police station in the town, for the Forest division, and it was suggested that if the site of the Town Hall, or a sufficient part of it, could be made available for the purpose, the corporation would, by acting in concert with the county, be enabled to secure the required accommodation at a much less cost by undertaking to rebuild the hall themselves. A

negotiation with the police committee was accordingly entered into, with a view to carry out the objects of both parties, which resulted in the offer by the committee to procure a grant of £2,000 on condition that the site was properly conveyed to the county, and suitable accommodation provided for the police in the new building. This arrangement was confirmed at the last Quarter Sessions. The corporation are naturally anxious not to lose so eligible an opportunity of rebuilding the hall. They are advised that, without entrenching on the requirements of the police committee, they can accomplish that object at a cost of £1,500, in addition to the county grant. The sum would enable them to obtain a commodious hall, available as well for municipal purposes as for holding the Petty Sessions of the County Justices of the division, and also for public meetings, a council chamber, a news and reading room, and accommodation for those attending the markets. The materials of the old building, together with funds at the command of the corporation, will supply one third of this amount, but they must understand that the corporation will dip their hands in their pockets to raise that one third, and they earnestly request the co-operation and assistance of their fellow townsmen and the residents in the district in raising the remaining portion for so desirable an object. The meeting was called for considering the subject, and raising subscriptions in aid of the required fund.

J.L. Roberts was called upon to move the first resolution. After a preamble about the High Steward, which had nothing to do with the Town Hall, he came to the principal object of the meeting. The circular issued by the corporation informed the town of the position in which they were placed as regarded that hall. It was not at all adapted for the increasing wants of the town. He proposed that it was desirable that the offer of the county to co-operate in rebuilding the Town Hall in connexion with the County Police Station be accepted. This was seconded by Mr. Weeks. The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. Heelas proposed "That a subscription list be forthwith opened to carry that object into effect." He said they had not begun without funds. The county had made a grant of £2,000; the Corporation had £200 at their command; the old materials would realise £200; in addition to that, they had got, or hoped to get, from the surplus fund of the Savings Bank £150; and their Lord High steward had that day given £100. (Applause). The Corporation, feeling themselves bound to do what they could, offered £100. Then their highly-respected county Member, R. Palmer Esq., had given them £50. (Applause). There was no doubt that the new building would be a great advantage to the town and neighbourhood. Mr. Dunning seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler proposed the next resolution:- "That a committee, consisting of the corporation, and six other inhabitants of the town, with power to add to their number, be appointed to collect subscriptions. Mr. John Heelas seconded the motion, and it was agreed to. The committee for the town were: Messrs. Gotelee, Dunning, Weeks, W. Ifould, George and J. Heelas.

Mr. Dally proposed that the plans before the meeting be adopted. They had been looked through very carefully and found to embrace all that was wanted. Mr. T. Cooke seconded the proposition.

A little discussion took place as to whether it was not premature to adopt the plans without time being given for their inspection by the public. On the motion of the Rev. C.H. Harcourt, it was arranged to adjourn the meeting until Monday next, so that the plan, may in the meantime, be inspected by the public.

The following subscriptions were given at the close of the meeting:-Robert Gibson £20; J.L. Gower £25; R. Falconer £10; Messrs Heelas & Son £50; Mr. T. Dunning

£10; Mr. Goodchild £10; Messrs. Soames & Cooke £5; Messrs. Weight & Barford £5 5s. The subscriptions, including the munificent donation of £100, from the Lord High Steward, amounted to £400???

In the evening about 60 of the principal, professional gentlemen and tradesmen of the town met in the hall and enjoyed a few hours together in the most convivial manner.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June

Ditto plus John Walter's contribution of £100.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> June

#### REBUILDING OF THE TOWN HALL

We are happy to report that the committee appointed to carry out the re-building of our Town-hall, continue to receive such assurances of support as to render the success of the scheme a certainty. Eight architects have been selected and applied to for designs to be sent in for the consideration and approval of the inhabitants from which to accept one for adoption. Since our last several handsome contributions have been received, including £50 from the Marquis of Downshire, T.C. Garth Esq., £50, the hon. P.P. Bouverie, M.P. £21, George Barker Esq., £21, Elliot Morres, Esq., Sir Edward Conroy, Bart., £10, Mr. Edward Lane £10. The committee have arranged that members of their body shall wait on every inhabitant in the town and parish to receive donations and we shall probably be able to publish in our next Paper the list of contributors showing how handsomely the public have come forward to secure the successful realisation of the desirable object in view.

Sat June 26th

#### BICYCLE RACE

A bicycle race, under the auspices of the Wokingham Cycling Club, took place on Wednesday evening, the course selected being from the "Two Poplars" Inn to the letter-box at Finchampstead and back, a distance of almost five miles. There were 15 starters, the racing being against time and handicapped, two leaving the starting point together. The three following were declared the winners:- F.J. Wells 1 (18 m 10s., allowed 2m.); R. Simmons 2 (18m 12s., allowed 1m); W. Scribbens 3 (17m 20s.). The quickest time made by the unsuccessful competitors was 16m 30s., and the longest 21m 35s. The first prize consisted of a silver-plated pint tankard; a pair of plated nut-crackers was the second, and the third was a pair of hair brushes and case.

The Rev. J.F. Llewelyn was judge; Mr. W. White starter, and Mr. H. Butler referee, and Messrs White, Rednall and Butler acted as handicappers. A smoking concert was afterwards held at the "Bush" Hotel, the Mayor (Ald. Heron) in the chair.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> July

#### TOWN HALL AND COUNTY POLICE STATION

The committee appointed for the purpose of carrying out this scheme, having met with such flattering support from the public, in collecting the funds necessary for the object in view, have since been engaged in obtaining the most suitable plan for the building. For this purpose, seven architects were selected, who were invited to send in designs, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant these gentlemen delivered their drawings, and, taken as a whole they certainly reflect great credit on their authors' abilities, and show that much care and attention must have been bestowed on their production. The following are the names of the competitors:- Mr. J.B. Clacey, Mr. W. Brown, and Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, of Reading; Mr. Horace Jones, Mr. C. Fowler jnr., Mr. J.

Turner, and Messrs. Judge and Winstanley of London. The drawings are all in sepia, and accompanied by block plans, and it is really surprising how excellently some of them succeed in the difficult task of harmonising the two dissimilar objects in the same design, so as to present an attractive exterior on all sides, a point of great importance, seeing that the building will be erected in the Market-place. The designs are arranged in the Town Hall for the inspection of the subscribers, and attracted much attention, the only regret expressed being that after so many beautiful designs had been prepared, only one could be accepted. However, after a careful examination, the committee have selected Messrs. Poulton and Woodman's plan, provisionally on its meeting with the sanction of the police committee, and that it can be carried out for the limited sum (£3,500) in hand, and it is a source of much satisfaction to the committee, to find that their choice is ratified by the approval of a large majority of the subscribers. The design presents a beautiful Gothic exterior, with a very light and elegant clock tower, and we are sure that it will not only a great ornament, but of great utility from its admirable internal arrangements, comprising as it does all the requirements of the town, and also of the county police committee. We earnestly trust that no obstacle may occur to prevent the early commencement of the building, which, when completed, will form so great an ornament to our town.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN HALL AND COUNTY POLICE STATION

The committee appointed to carry out this scheme, having as we announced some time since, selected the design of Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, architects of Reading, as the one best suited for the purposes required, resolved to invite offers from eight builders of repute, and they were invited to tender for the execution of the works, according to the working specifications of Messrs. Poulton and Woodman. Five tenders were delivered by the specified time; and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, at a meeting of the committee, it was resolved unanimously that the tender of Mr. Woodroffe, builder, of Reading, (being the lowest in amount, and also within the sum at the committee's disposal) should be accepted, so that as soon as the contract is signed, the works will be at once proceeded with, and the present building given up to the contractor. It is believed, that in the course of the ensuing week, the pulling down of the old hall will be commenced, as it is intended the new building shall, if possible, be covered in by the end of the year, and the whole completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June next, so that it must be acknowledged no time will be lost in carrying out this very important and desirable object.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### FAREWELL BALL

This entertainment which we noticed in our last as being got up as a farewell party in our old Town-hall previous to its demolition, took place on Monday evening last under the efficient management of the committee of the Wokingham Cricket Club. The hall contained many very tasteful decorations and the aspect of the room when dancing commenced was very pleasing. The company numbered about ninety of the principal inhabitants of the town with several officers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Aldershot. Dancing was kept up with untiring enjoyment until 4.00 a.m. The excellent music and the sociability of the whole party rendered this final ball a scene to be remembered with satisfaction.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

Messrs Weight and Barford of Wokingham are appointed surgeons to Wellington College. Mr. Barford who was formerly demonstrator of Chemistry at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is also appointed to deliver an annual course of chemistry lectures to the college students.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

Wellington College was opened for students on the 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb

Wellington College was opened by Queen Victoria. (P8)

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April

#### TOWN HALL ACCIDENT

On Thursday morning last, shortly before nine o'clock, an accident occurred on the works at the new Town-hall, which, fortunately was not attended with serious results as might have been anticipated. Five labourers had just reached the top platform on the inside, each carrying a hod full of bricks, when a portion of the scaffold gave way precipitating the poor men to the ground. Two were comparatively unhurt, but the other three were much contused and shaken. Singular to relate, one of the labourers who had assisted to take his unfortunate comrades to the surgeons, had scarcely returned to his work when he lost his footing, from the slippery state of the wall (from the frozen snow) on which he stood, and was thrown a considerable distance and much cut and bruised. Mr. Noad and Mr. Barford, surgeons who promptly attended to the sufferers, two of whom were conveyed in a fly to the hospital, but after being attended to were enable to be brought home, and we are glad to report they are doing well.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June

A presentation of inkstand to W C Beechey at the Rose Hotel on the occasion of the dissolution of the Society of Oddfellows to which Mr Beechey had been Honorary Secretary for 15 years. The Chair was occupied by Edward Weight.

#### HOFFMAN'S ORGANOPHONIC BAND

This company gave a concert here on Tuesday evening last, in our National School Room to a rather numerous audience, who seemed well pleased, both with the performance of the band, and also Mr. Thurton's clever ventriloquism, introduced between the first and second parts of the musical programme.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### TOWN SESSIONS

The learned Recorder addressed the Grand Jury, congratulating them on the orderly state of the town, as evinced by the fact of there being no case for trial, and then on the fact of the near approach to completion of their new Town Hall, the beauty of which he much admired, whilst the arrangements of the interior, he felt assured would in every respect meet their requirements, as a convenient Court for the transaction of



their Sessions business. We may also add that we expect very shortly to be enabled to announce the completion of the interior, and the time fixed for the opening ceremonial.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### NEW TOWN HALL

The rapid approach to completion of our new Town Hall having necessarily brought to a termination the labours of the contractors' workmen, it was felt by many of the inhabitants that a mark of appreciation should be shown of the uniformly orderly conduct of the men during the progress of the works. Accordingly a subscription was set on foot, and being headed by the members of the Corporation, in a very short time sufficient was realised to provide a supper and evening's entertainment, and on Monday last the party assembled and were met by several visitors at the Bush Inn, where an excellent repast was served up. Mr. Dalley presided, and a most agreeable evening was spent, the treat being most thoroughly enjoyed by its recipients, and they all acknowledged with much feeling their grateful sense of the kindness shown them: and we have no doubt they will long remember with pleasure the completion of their part of the building of the Wokingham Town Hall.

1860

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> March

The preliminary steps for the formation of Wokingham Rifle Corps were taken –30 volunteers entered their names. The corps is part of Forest Division Rifles.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June *Berkshire Chronicle*

#### OPENING OF NEW TOWN HALL

6<sup>th</sup> June 1860

Wednesday, 6th June, was quite a gala day at Wokingham, the handsome and ornamental new Town-Hall, which is quite an important feature in the town, being formally opened on that day by the High Steward of the town, Richard Cornwallis Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke.

The old building had become so dilapidated that it was felt indispensable to erect a new hall, in which to conduct the public business of Wokingham. The idea was taken up with much spirit by the leading inhabitants of the town, and the gentry of the neighbourhood gave a liberal support to the undertaking. Combined with the building is the station for the Wokingham division of the County Constabulary, and in consideration of the advantages to be derived from this connection the fund also received material aid from the county. Before recording the events of the opening ceremony we will state briefly the general features of the building.

The walls are built of black, red and white brick, harmoniously arranged, and with considerable effect; the patterns of black bricks in the cornices and arches are of an elegant design. A degree of prominence is given to the Town Hall by an increased decoration in the windows and archways. The roofs are covered by green slates. Considerable variety in the outline is caused by the ornamental towers over the entrances at each end of the hall, and the clock turret rising from the centre of the hall roof. The most striking feature of the of the external part of the building is the admirable workmanship of the brickwork, and the taste displayed in the arrangement of the various ornamental details, which reflects the highest credit on the contractors, who have so successfully carried out the intentions of the architects.

The chief feature of interest internally is the hall—a room 45 feet in length, and 25 feet broad. The council chamber at the south end can be opened to the hall by sliding doors, under a pointed archway. The framework of the roof is visible inside the hall, and is ornamental,

with spandrels and curved timbers, stained and varnished. Considerable effect is given to the ceiling (which is arranged in panels) by coloured fretwork. Pendant gasaliers from the roof light the hall by night. The interesting and valuable portraits from the old hall are suspended against the walls, and the Recorder has presented the corporation with a handsome looking-glass, which has been placed over one of the chimney pieces. The furniture of the council chamber has been designed by the architects and admirably executed by Mr. Parsons of Wokingham.

The buildings comprise the Town Hall, with the usual offices: savings bank, mechanics institution, large covered market under the hall, a county police station, with prisoners' cells, and accommodation for the superintendent and constables and fire engine station.

The cost of the works has been between £3,000 and £4,000. Messrs Poulton and Woodman, of Reading, were the architects, and Messrs Wheeler (masons), and Mr. Woodroffe (carpenter), the contractors. The pictures have been admirably restored, and framed by Mr. Butler, of Reading.

As we have previously stated, Wednesday last (6<sup>th</sup>) was fixed for the opening of the new building, and the town presented a very gay and lively appearance. The High Steward, attired in military uniform, arrived by rail at about a quarter to one o'clock, and was received by the Alderman, J. L. Roberts, Esq., the members of the Corporation, and a large number of the inhabitants of the town, the band playing the National Anthem, and the bells of the old church ringing out a merry peal.

A carriage was in waiting to receive his lordship, and accompanied by the Recorder, F. A. Carrington, Esq., he proceeded therein to the Alderman's residence, followed by the band, which played a number of popular airs. Then came the emblem of civic authority—the mace—which was borne before the members of the Corporation, and a large number of the principal inhabitants of the town formed the rear of the procession. The streets were thronged with spectators, and extending from the hall down Broad Street, a row of school children was formed on either side. The union-jack floated from the roof of the hall, and the windows of the neighbouring houses were filled with spectators.

After a short stay at the Alderman's house, Lord Braybrooke re-entered the carriage which proceeded to the Town Hall followed by the procession in the same order as on coming from the station. Having alighted, his lordship entered the building and proceeded upstairs to the hall. This had been enlarged for the occasion by throwing back the doors and so giving the additional room to be occupied by the corporation as a Council Chamber. At the end a raised dais had been erected, and after cordially recognising some of the ladies present, his Lordship took his seat in the centre chair, with the recorder on his right, and the Alderman on the left.

The hall was crowded with a very fashionable audience, there being a great many ladies present, who appeared to take considerable interest in the proceedings. The platform was filled and surrounded by a large number of the most influential country residents, the members of the corporation, and other inhabitants of the town. Among those present we observed the High Sheriff of the county (Sir C. S. P. Hunter, Bart.), Sir E. Conroy, Bart., Sir E. Hulse, Bart., the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., Archdeacon Randall, The Rev. T. Morres (Corporation Chaplain), Captain L. Gower, R. Gibson, Esq., T.C. Garth, Esq., J. Walter, Esq., M.P. Charlton Esq., G. Barker, Esq., R. Palmer, Esq., E. Kinnersley, Esq., Major Court, W. C. King, Esq., J. Simonds, Esq., (Sindlesham), the Rev. A. A. Cameron, R. Garrard, Esq., Colonel Fraser, Rev. H. Roberts, Rev. E. W. Benson, Rev. E. Parker (Waltham St. Lawrence) &c., &c.

The proceedings were opened by the reading of an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. T. Morres, invoking the Divine blessing on the building, on the magistracy who would have to dispense justice within its walls, and that it might be made a means for the moral and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants, while for all the greater gift of the knowledge of Christ was implored.

#### Speeches

The High Steward Richard Cornwallis Neville, 4th Lord Braybrooke then rose and said, "Ladies and gentlemen: it gives me very great pleasure to be able attend myself personally to

discharge one of the duties of my hereditary office as High Steward of this ancient municipal corporation. I congratulate you on the day being finer than I could have hoped for at first, for it threatened on every side to have been a pouring wet day. I feel very much flattered by the welcome reception of so many ladies coming out to shed good omen on the opening of this hall. There are so many faces whom I ought to know from the associations of my earliest youth, when passed at Billingbear, in the days of my respected grandfather, that I feel quite at a loss to be able to put proper names to everybody's faces. But I recollect a great many of them, and I feel very highly honoured by their presence here—gentlemen as well as ladies (applause).

The office I hold is, as you are aware, an hereditary one, and it has been so since the days of King James the First. I have inherited it from many of my ancestors, who dwelt in this part of the country; and whatever unwillingness or modesty I may have in comparing myself with any of the good qualities of my ancestors, yet there is one quality in which I will I will not admit my inferiority, and that is in memory, which is equally hereditary with property and this office.

My memory carries me back to many days of my earliest youth, in which I remember many events which took place in my grandfather's time. Mr. Roberts was telling me the other day that he could recollect when in my grandfather's time, as long ago as 1798, there was a review on the terrace at Billingbear in the presence of George III., of some militia regiment. I cannot go back quite so far, but I remember that at the end of October 1824, I was on the terrace, and saw a review there of quite a different kind, although the troops were there, and in red coats. It was in the days of that respected baronet, Sir John Cope, then the gallant master of the hunt—(applause)—when I saw seven foxes paraded from the Warren copse to the other copse in my grandfather's presence (loud laughter).

If I were to mention all that I could recollect of the days of my earliest youth I should detain you a very long time, but I must now come to the point, which is to say that today this hall is opened (applause). It is a very great improvement on the ancient hall, for however picturesque the former Town Hall may have been this one is, I suppose, well adapted for the purpose, and comprises many different departments within its walls. I think it cannot fail to be opened under favourable auspices, with such a goodly company present, with the bright sun shining upon the scene; and besides these—all the Berkshire roses have come out too (applause). I may only add that I myself have two very young buds with a maternal blossom (laughter and applause). I regret they are not present themselves. They have never been in Berkshire, but still, as being my wife and children, they are connected with Berkshire, and I have no doubt you would welcome them equally if they came, as I hope some day they will, to pay a visit to this town—(loud applause). I feel much obliged to all of you for all you have done for me in honouring me with your presence this day (loud applause).”

Recorder Mr F. A. Carrington said it was with pleasure and pride that he appeared in this hall for the first time as Recorder, and that he should be the first Recorder to appear in it. His connection with the town did not go back to the time of the old hall, although he knew that building, and certainly it was a very useful building to the Corporation and town for a good while. But like many good things it had worn out, and the steps that led up and down to the council chamber were so worn that he thought the first time he went down them, he should have went down head, foremost but luckily he was caught in time, and the accident did not happen (laughter).

The town of Wokingham had been an inhabited place for a great many centuries. The first mention he knew of the town was in the charter of Offa, King of the Mercians in 726, wherein he granted to his prefect—whether that was the alderman of Wokingham in those days he could not ascertain, because it was a Latin term, but probably it was the same—some rights appertaining to the church situate in the territory of the Wokings, which appeared to be a district inhabited by a Saxon tribe extending from Woking on the one side to Wokingham on the other.

The place seemed to have taken the same name, because as late as Queen Elizabeth's charter, the town was called Wokingham, and as Wokingham was not a town, most probably this was the place mentioned previously. So far they traced the history of the town very far

back, and in that state it seemed to have continued until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and then there was an alderman under that name. Queen Elizabeth confirmed various privileges to the town which had existed from time immemorial—one of which was that her steward of the manor of Sonning was to administer the affairs of the town conjointly with the alderman. So things remained until the reign of James the First, when the town took a start very much in the right direction.

Through the influence at the court of James of an ancestor of their present High Steward—the then Lord Braybrooke, the present government charter was obtained. Then they had the Corporation exactly as they are now, with certainly as good as staff for the administration of the affairs of a town as could well be obtained. There was the Lord High Steward, and his duties were not defined by the charter, but it was easy to ascertain what they were. He was the medium of communication between the court at Windsor castle, the government and the town. These were duties not easily defined by charter but very well understood by persons acquainted with politics, either of that period or the present.

The next officer King James gave them was the Recorder, who he hoped was and had been of great use in the administration of justice, both civil and criminal, because he held sessions for the transaction of criminal business and also a local court for the adjudication in civil causes, not exceeding £50, so that if they required it, they could obtain a settlement of such cases there, and with the sessions they had not got many prisoners for trial at the assizes or elsewhere.

In addition Sir H. Neville gave them a local magistracy, which rendered it unnecessary for them to go to other places, and also granted the privilege of holding a market and three fairs in the course of the year—which at one time were great marts for the transaction of business, but now in consequence of railway facilities they were not so much used. For these they were indebted to Sir H. Neville, and his influence with King James.

He found also that the corporation of Wokingham were jolly people—(laughter)—for within the last twelve month a list of healths to be drunk at the corporation dinner had been found, written on a piece of parchment, and they were much the same as are given at corporation dinners now, but there is one very peculiar feature in them. There are eight toasts in succession, and the ninth and tenth, or the two bottom ones, are the Royal Family and the Prince of Wales, and above them is put the Recorder. Now although he has heard and read that a living dog was better than a dead lion, yet they found here that a present “nobody and snob” was considered much better than absent royalty (laughter). But this did not turn out exactly to be so, because it would be seen, on reference to the list, that the royal toasts were put at a considerable distance from the others, as a supplementary addition or *addendum* and the humble suggestion he would give of the meaning was that, supposing the alderman was going to be very liberal with his wine, then he was to take these two toasts, and put them in their proper place, but if he was “scaly” or sparing of it, then they were to be omitted. But assuming as he did that a great deal of strong beer was drunk at corporation dinners, if every gentlemen had ten glasses of wine in addition put under his belt, the chances are that he would feel very comfortable (laughter). That was a specimen of the corporation of those days. They had not degenerated since (laughter), for he was happy to say from experience that the corporation dinners now were very good, and the hospitality excellent (laughter and applause).

Leaving James’ reign, he would observe with reference to the old hall, that he had been enabled to discover the date of the building within twelve years. In 1612, James the First gave the corporation the liberty and authority to build a hall, and in 1625, the corporation made a code of bye-laws, in which it was directed that all the corporation meetings were to be held in the Town Hall, and that every member of the corporation who did not attend in his black gown was to be fined 3s. 4d. for neglect. That was a fine he thought was never levied, for he believed they all came in their gowns, and looked very well, as he knew from experience (laughter and applause).

Later still they had a benefactor in the shape of a donor of pictures and there were some very beautiful paintings around the hall. There was some difficulty in ascertaining what many of them were, and greater difficulty to know by whom they were given. He should have

ascribed them to Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne, because he had taken the title of baron from their town; but the greatest evidence against this supposition was, that there was no portrait in the hall of Prince George. There were portraits of two of the Georges—George the First and George the Second—and that would lead them to suppose that some monarch gave the pictures, and if it were so, it would most probably be George the Second. But from all the information he was able to obtain, he could not discover who was the actual donor. Here, however, the pictures were in excellent condition and a great ornament to the Town Hall (applause). He believed he had now stated the most prominent features in the history of the town except one—viz., that they formerly had a mint or coinage there.

In the reign of Charles the Second a great many tradesmen in town used tokens. He had one which had been given him by Mr. Prince, grocer, of Reading, and bearing the name of William Anderson. This he had shown to many persons in the town acquainted with its former history, but no one knew such a person as William Anderson, and thought it must have been coined somewhere else. However, from the researches of the clergyman in the parish register, it was found that William Anderson died in 1691, he being a person of great consideration, and from the inscription on the token it was also seen that he was an eminent grocer—so that beyond the other incidents he had enumerated, he had also given them credit for having a mint (applause).

The old hall stood well for 250 years. He hoped the career of the present building would not be so brief, because he had been in many halls of double the antiquity, and in quite good condition as when first erected. He thanked them for the attention they had given him, and congratulated them on having so handsome a building not only for municipal, but all other purposes (loud applause).

Alderman J. L. Roberts, said as the suggestion of rebuilding their town hall originated with himself, as he had taken great interest in the progress of the work, they would allow him to offer them a few words of congratulation on its final completion (hear hear and applause).

It was not to be supposed that they could have parted with their picturesque old building, which as the recorder had told them, was worn out, without a sigh (hear hear). But when they found out it was so worn out, and that it was impossible to make it adequate to the growing wants and interests of the town, then he thought that they should feel themselves highly benefited by the change effected (cheers). Some persons had raised an objection as to their having united with the county in the erection of this building; but when they considered that in the first place it afforded material aid to the funds—in the second place that it ensured the concentration of all the public business in the centre of the town (hear hear), and lastly, that it gave them the protection of the police—and as a magistrate of the town he might here observe that he could vouch for their most efficient and judicious care (hear hear)—then looking at these considerations it must be seen that the benefits accruing to them far outweigh the objection raised to that respect (hear hear); and looking at the advantages they had gained, they might dispense with all regret and objection (applause).

But there was one other objection to their proceeding with this building, and that was their funds, both public and private, being limited to a very narrow compass, they were therefore obliged to ask their neighbours to assist them in the undertaking. And it gave him very great pleasure to see present, not only his lordship, but so many other of the neighbouring gentlemen to had so kindly responded to their call, and he begged to express to them on the part of himself and the members of the corporation the deep sense they entertained of their kindness and liberality (loud applause).

He could only hope that they, as well as the magistrates of the town would find that hall adequate in all respects for the administration of justice; and he would also hope that the neighbouring gentry would continue to aid them in their endeavours to make that building conducive not only to the material prosperity of the town, but also to the moral and intellectual advancement of its inhabitants (loud and continued applause).

The High Sheriff, (Sir C. S. P Hunter, Bart.), then declared that the opening ceremony was concluded, and accompanied by the Recorder and Alderman and other gentlemen, proceeded to inspect the hall and other compartments of the building.

A large party then adjourned to the Alderman's house, where an elegant luncheon was provided; while the Grand Jury and others also sat down to luncheon at the Rose.

Although the morning was gloomy and threatening, yet the sun shone out brightly, and the weather was all that could be desired during the ceremony.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June

#### NEW TOWN HALL

On Monday last the Savings Bank weekly meeting was held for the first time in the room in the new Town Hall, the use of which for bank purposes in the trustees perpetuity. The room, which is in the corner of the new building facing the Rose Hotel, is large and in every way suited for the bank purposes and there the bank will be opened every Monday as usual from 12.00 till one o'clock.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June

#### NEW TOWN HALL

The looking glass presented by the Recorder Mr. Carrington, on the opening of the new Town Hall was a plate 21" by 91". It was supplied by Mr. Edward Foulkes, Russell Street, Covent Garden.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Aug P4 p/c

Death of F A Carrington Recorder

#### BAPTIST CHAPEL.

The work of demolition of this building was commenced on Tuesday last, and we hope the weather will prove more favourable for the erection of the new building than we have lately experienced. Mr. Wells of Reading has undertaken the contract. The Town-hall has been kindly given up for the purpose of holding their Sabbath morning and evening services; but although a spacious building it does not appear sufficient to accommodate the number of attendants.

#### EXCURSION TRAIN TO HASTINGS

The Special Excursion Train to Hastings on Tuesday last, was well patronised by our townfolk, in connection with the members of the Reading Philanthropic Institution. The weather was fortunately fine, and those who made up their minds for a holiday thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Aug P5 p/c

Biography of F A Carrington.

#### GAME LICENSES

W. Gotelee, bookseller, printer and stationer, stamp distributor, Wokingham is authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, to grant licenses to kill game

#### LITERARY INSTITUTE

The members have now taken possession of the commodious room at the north end of the Town Hall, on the ground floor facing Broad Street, which has been kindly granted them by the Corporation, the acceptance of which was resolved on at a meeting of the committee last week, and the thanks of the Institution duly accorded to the Corporate body for the very handsome offer. The Committee and Secretary are now furnishing it in a manner that will conduce very much to the comfort of the members frequenting the reading-room, and we trust that the Institution will long

flourish in its new abode and that members will now increase now that the Institute is now brought to such an excellent and central situation.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sept P5 p/c

#### THE WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY MOVEMENT

The public meeting to which we alluded last week, was held on Monday last in the Town Hall, but was not very largely attended, still we noticed present the Alderman (J.L. Roberts Esq.) Captain Gower. The Rev. W. Hirst, Messrs W.W. Wheeler, F. Soames, J. Soames, J. Heelas, jun., J. Weeks, H. Ifould, W.W. Burr, W. Hollis, R. Briginshaw, and others.

The Alderman on taking the chair, explained the object of the meeting called in pursuance of the requisition to him; after which, Captain Gower, Mr. Weeks. Mr. F. Soames and Mr. W. Wheeler addressed the meeting, and the following resolutions were carried:- 1<sup>st</sup>. That it is desirable to set apart some time from business during each week, in order to afford to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, the means of recreation necessary for mental and physical improvement. 2<sup>nd</sup>. That a committee be formed for the purpose of waiting on those whose influence it is important to secure, as to the practicability of carrying out the foregoing resolution, and also what time in the week would be most convenient, and that the meeting be adjourned until Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of September to receive the report of the Committee.

It seemed the general opinion that although it might not be practicable to entirely suspend business at any particular period, still if it all would but earnestly second the movement, the opportunity could be easily afforded to everyone of availing themselves of a few hours of weekly recreation.

#### CRICKET

On Monday next, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Wokingham and Henley Clubs will play a match on the Wokingham ground, when some scientific play may be fully expected.

1861

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

J G Barford marries

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

#### OPENING OF NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL

The increase which soon took place in the Baptist denomination in this town after the commencement of the ministry of the Rev. H.G. Scorey, together with the dilapidated state into which the old chapel had fallen, rendered it necessary to erect a new one. The corner stone was laid towards the close of last year, and the work having been recently completed, the sacred edifice was opened on Thursday last, by a series of services, which were attended by a very large number of persons many of whom came from the neighbouring towns and villages. The new buildings consisted of chapel 41½ feet wide and 51½ feet long, exclusive of lobbies; lecture room 32 feet by 20 feet, and a private vestry for the minister. The chapel is intended to seat 100 persons on the ground floor and 200? [illegible] in a gallery over the entrance lobbies. The design is prepared to admit of side galleries being added when required when required. The style of the building is Italian, freely treated in the general arrangements and combination of the materials of which it is erected, viz. red and white bricks and stone, the white bricks being mostly in bands and arches. Stone being used to protect

the projections of cornices, &c., and also as borders in the arches. All the windows have ornamental cast iron sashes glazed with ground glass. The interior of the building is very simple and chased. The baptistery is raised above the general level of the chapel, and is floored over, forming an extensive platform, upon which stands the minister's desk, a very beautiful piece of workmanship, and design, executed in pitch-pine, French polished. The platform is surmounted by an iron railing, painted in lavender colour and slightly relieved with gold. The floor of the chapel is made to incline from the entrance, by which plan the minister commands a view of the whole of the congregation. The seats are low with plain bench end, and are without doors. The most noticeable feature inside, is the segmental recessed termination behind the minister's platform with panelled and domed ceiling, designed, we are informed, not only to be ornamental, but useful acoustically. The centre part of the ceiling is painted, and slightly decorated with distempered lines and ornamental scrollwork at the intersections. The chapel is lighted by two elegant gasoliers, suspended from the ceiling, painted lavender colour, and relieved with gold. The whole of the wood-work internally is stained and varnished. The chapel is heated by Mr. Hadem's patent system with which is comprised a general plan for the ventilation. The grave-yard around has been re-arranged and the front fence removed, and four handsome piers erected in harmony with the style of the building. The total cost of the building, including heating, architect's commission, &c., will be about £1,600., and considering the size and the very substantial character of the work, it is one of the cheapest structures recently erected in this neighbourhood.

The design was prepared by Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, architects of Reading, and the works have been satisfactorily executed under their constant superintendence, by Mr. John Wells, of the Kings-road, in the same town, whose tender was accepted in a limited competition with the neighbouring builders.

The engagements of the day commenced with a prayer meeting at half-past six in the morning, and another was held from eleven to twelve o'clock. In the afternoon, service took place in the chapel, and there was a large congregation. The Rev. John Aldis, pastor of the Baptist Chapel, Reading, read a portion of the scripture, and offered up an earnest prayer, after which the Rev. W. Landels of the Diorama Chapel, Regent's Park, preached from the 12<sup>th</sup> v. of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ch. of Revelation, and his discourse, to use the words of a speaker at the evening meeting, "was marked by a power of illustration, purity of diction, loftiness of conception, and a sweep of thought which it was seldom the privilege of a congregation to listen to." The service having been concluded with a prayer by the Rev. T. Welsh, of Reading, the large assemblance adjourned to a spacious marquee, upwards of 100 feet long, to partake of tea, and, despite the rain, which was at the time falling thickly, the company was so numerous that not only were all the seats filled, but every inch of standing ground was also occupied. The three tables which extended the entire length the tent, were loaded with an abundance of cake, &c., and a great number of vases of flowers were placed on them. The marquee itself was very tastefully decorated with evergreen and flowers, by ladies and others, and the gathering was altogether such as had not been witnessed in Wokingham for many years.

Further details follow....



Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A NEW CHURCH.

On Tuesday the foundation stone of a new church, which has now been a short time commenced, on a well-chosen and elevated site--a piece of ground adjoining the road from Reading to Wokingham, and a short distance from the town--was laid by Mrs. Walter, the lady of John Walter, Esq. M.P., who, at his sole expense, is now erecting the building to meet a spiritual want which has long been felt in the parish. Wokingham is an improving town, the inhabitants have been for a length of time on the increase, and it has been found that the spiritual wants of its people have been far beyond what the parish church with its limited means could satisfy; and Mr. Walter, with that noble generosity which characterises all his public acts, has stepped forward to provide the means for the holy work. Mr. Walter now possesses a large amount of property in the parish and neighbourhood fully, and recognising fully, as few men do, that property has its responsibilities, he has erected schools in the parish of Sandhurst and at Finchampstead and supports them entirely at his own cost. In addition to this church, we believe he will erect schools in connection with it, endow the minister, and make provision for the schoolmaster. Such deeds as these speak for themselves, as noble as they are disinterested; and the benefits which such a man, and such acts confer on the neighbourhood are incalculable. They are not confined to the present—for generations yet unborn will reap the advantages and have cause to remember Mr. Walter's name with heartfelt gratitude.

The church is designed to accommodate a congregation of between 500 and 600 persons. In plan it will consist of a chancel and nave, with north and south aisles to each, together with a vestry and organ chamber. There will be a lofty tower and spire, rising 166 feet from the ground, to the north-west angle of the nave, and the latter will be lighted by a clerestory. The arcades of the nave will be moulded, resting upon piers of a like kind, with carved and foliated caps. The chancel arch is to be richly moulded and also carved. A suitable recessed reredos, diapered and carved, will be erected at the east end of the chancel. The date of work chosen is the "2<sup>nd</sup> or middle pointed." The church is to be furnished with good pavements of encaustic tiles, and painted glass in the chancel and clerestory windows: and the tower will be filled with a peal of eight bells. The materials used for the external will be Bristol stone, with Bath stone dressings, and the walls inside will be of brick. Henry Woodyer Esq., of Grafham near Guildford, is the architect, and Messrs. Wheeler and Sons, of Reading, the builders – We understand that it is Mr. Walter's intention shortly to commence a new parsonage house in connexion with this new church, for which plans have already been prepared.

A service followed.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### A BALLOON DESCENT

On Thursday afternoon between five and six o'clock our town was thrown into a state of excitement by the news of the near approach of Mr. Green's Balloon, which had ascended from Reading that afternoon. In a short time almost everyone turned out to watch with interest the huge aerial visitor and it soon became apparent that the travellers intended to affect a landing near.

They first reached *terra firma* in a clover field on the farm of Mr. Edward Allen, near the church, and were soon surrounded by a very numerous assemblage, when

finding that it might occasion a good deal of damage to the crop the balloon was towed to a large meadow where plenty of assistance being rendered by the bystanders, Mr. Green and his fellow traveller alighted in safety and in a very short time the gas was allowed to escape and the unwieldy balloon, to the astonishment of those who had never before had an opportunity of seeing such a thing, was soon safely picked up with the car, and taken off in a cart without sustaining the least damage.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

James Twycross died on Wednesday.

1863

Nothing

1864

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April

Opening of All Saints Parish Church on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April after renovations.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### WATERING OF WOKINGHAM STREETS

During the past week, through the energy of a few of our tradesmen, a capital improvement has been introduced in our town: we mean the partial watering of our streets. At present the water-cart only visits the Market-place, and a short distance down the adjoining streets, but when the inhabitants experience the benefit derived, we shall hope to see the improvement extended.

One or two previous attempts in former years have failed, the more credit is due to those who have successfully started the project new, and when it is seen that where all combine how small an individual weekly subscription is required to continue this present plan, it surely will not be discontinued, especially during the present dry and dusty summer.

Some complain that the supply of water is rather scanty, but they must bear in mind that the supply is in exact proportion to the subscription, and an increase in the latter item will at once secure an increase in the former.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

#### THE WOKINGHAM FIRE ENGINE

The larger engine which is kept at the Town Hall has lately undergone extensive alterations and repairs, and for this purpose Mr. Merryweather of the firm of Merryweather and Sons, (of Long Acre and Lambeth) attended to suggest what repairs and alterations were necessary. Mr. Alderman Ferguson ordered that these should be at once carried out, and consequently the engine was sent to Messrs. Merryweather's fire-engine works in London.

The engine has been mounted on springs which makes it travel much easier along the roads. The works have been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and the firm have turned it out equal in power to those of their latest design. The engine is painted a bright red colour, and on each side in gold letters is written the word "Wokingham". Several new lengths of hose, fire buckets, &c., have also been provided, and in

addition to those, a domestic fire pump, a small inexpensive article, which can be instantly set to work by a single person, and is invaluable in extinguishing fires when they have not obtained much hold on the place.

When the other engine is repaired, the townspeople may flatter themselves they have sufficient power to soon extinguish any fire that may occur.

#### LITERARY INSTITUTION

The introductory lecture of the present season will be delivered in the Town Hall, on Thursday evening by the head master of the Wellington College, the Rev. E.W. Benson, on "Self Education."

#### PENNY READINGS

These popular Readings will shortly be resumed by the Committee of the Institute, who are anxious to secure the services any gentleman willing to promote the success of these entertainments. Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, will be the first night of the Readings, and they will be continued every Tuesday evening.

#### CHARITIES

On Wednesday, the Alderman and Corporation as Trustees of Archbishop Laud's Charity, met to award two apprenticeship premiums of £21 each, to boys born in the town of Wokingham, when Watkin William Wynn and Jan Taylor were elected. They afterwards distributed the charity of Mrs. Yarnold to blind persons when the sum of £35 ten shillings was divided amongst ten candidates.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

J L Roberts was chairman of the Literary Institution

### 1865

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July

John Balston Walter, son of John Walter III, has been Gazetted to a Lieutenancy in the Royal Berks Militia vice Baynham removed.

Sat 11th Nov

On Wednesday night a ball was held in the Town Hall under distinguished patronage and was numerously attended by the principal families resident at this end of the county together with numerous officers from Aldershot. The party numbered rather more than one hundred and the hall was very tastefully decorated by Mr. W. Chambers to whom was entrusted the refreshment department which, as usual, on those occasions gave the greatest satisfaction. Burnham's quadrille band performed a choice selection of music and the party did not separate until 4.00 on the following morning.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

On Tuesday the Royal Forest Lodge of Oddfellows celebrated their first anniversary with a soiree in the Town Hall. The Chair was taken by Alderman Heelas.

Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Dec

THE COMING OF AGE OF THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

On Tuesday night the hills on the farms held by the tenants of Castlereagh Estate were illuminated with tar barrels, bonfires etc. The Craighah Hill was rendered conspicuous by a grand display of fireworks consisting of several flights of rockets with various smaller pieces. For miles around the illuminations were visible several farm houses being brilliantly lighted.

1866

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE COMING OF AGE OF THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH

The festivities at Hillsborough Castle in celebration of the coming of age of the Earl of Hillsborough continues—

On Tuesday evening the tenants of the Kilmarlin Estate to the number of 600 partook of the hospitality of the Marquis of Downshire and amongst the enjoyments provided for them witnessed a private theatrical performance in an elegant little theatre expressly fitted up in the mansion. Other amusements are in contemplation.

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb

On Thursday last the Churchwardens and Overseers of Wokingham distributed nearly forty tons of coal amongst the poor parishioners from the funds realised from the fuel allotments--a most acceptable gift just now when the weather is colder, and from the long continued wet weather the poor have not been so fully employed as usual.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June

#### GENERAL HOLIDAY

In the early part of the past week a requisition was set on foot by a number of the inhabitants who were desirous that a general holiday should be kept on the Coronation Day, which very quickly received the appeal of all the principal tradesmen of the town, and on Thursday it was presented to the Alderman, Mr James Skerritt, who promptly issued a hand bill, in which he recommended his fellow townsmen to carry out the proposal on Thursday next by closing their shops and suspending business as far as practicable.

We shall hope to see so reasonable request very generally complied with and thus enable the employer and employed to enjoy the rare treat of a day of recreation in this beautiful summer season, a boon, the value of which can only be realised by those whose duties tie them daily to the counter or desk.

#### REMOVAL OF NUISANCES

The authorities are taking measures of a precautionary nature, with a view to the sanitary improvement of the town and neighbourhood, the board of Guardians having recently appointed Supt. Millard, inspector of nuisances for the south district of the Wokingham Union and Mr. Edmond Herrington, of Twyford inspector for the north district. We trust all parties will endeavour to assist the inspectors in the discharge of their duties, as far as practicable by the removal of all causes of complaint and especially during the hot season and in the suppression of these evils which are the sure forerunners of disease.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July

The stoppage of the Town Clock during the past few weeks has been a source of inconvenience to many and it has also been complained very generally that lately the clock has not kept much correct time as formerly, a fact in no way surprising when we state that the clock when first placed in the Town Hall was an old one.

The alderman has since called to his aid a church and turret clock manufacturer of London who recommends the erection of a new clock having four faces which would cost but little more than the recent repairs to the present one.

The proposal to adopt the latter plan must strike everyone as being the best. The alderman has accordingly called a meeting of the inhabitants of the afternoon next when the specifications and estimations and measures taken we trust to raise the necessary funds to carry out the plan determined on.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### THE TOWN CLOCK

We noticed a few weeks since the efforts which had been made for the purpose of erecting a new Clock on the Turret of our Town-hall. After the committee had decided on accepting the tender of Mr. Tucker of London, for the erection of the clock, and the funds necessary had been generously contributed by the inhabitants and their friends, a very strong desire was expressed by many of the inhabitants that the new clock should strike the quarter hours, and the estimate has consequently been amended by the addition of the necessary works to carry out what certainly appears to be a great improvement on the original design; and this, including three new bells, which are considered requisite, will altogether amount £100. Of the sum, we are glad to hear about £80, has been collected, and we trust that all intending subscribers will at once forward their donations.

#### WOKINGHAM VERSUS ABINGDON

This match was played on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. On the Wokingham Ground. The Abingdon won the first innings. Score: Abingdon 142 and 77 Wokingham, 96 and 42. The highest scores were as follows: Abingdon, Mr. Bacon, 51; Mr. W. Athawes, 33; Mr. G. Greaves, 16. Wokingham Mr. A. Willats, 22; Mr. H. R. Morris, two 14s.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### TOWN CLOCK

The completion of this much - improvement during the past week has afforded great satisfaction to the townspeople. The clock strikes the quarters, the hour faces have been painted black with gilt numerals and hands which enables the time to be observed at a much greater distance than formerly. The clock has been manufactured by Mr. E. Tucker, of Theobold Road, Grays Inn. The cost, including the new bells, has been upwards of £100 raised by voluntary subscriptions.

1867

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

A new clock and bells have recently been erected in the Town Hall the changes attendant upon the same having been defrayed by public subscription collected under the superintendence of Mr. Alderman Skerritt. The clock shows the time upon four dials and strikes the quarters and hours upon bells weighing about 4 hundredweights

cast by Messrs. Steinbank & Mears of Whitechapel. The clock itself has been constructed by Mr. Tucker of Theobold Road, London on the horizontal bed principle and embraces all modern improvements.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July

#### ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

Court "Leo" in connection with the London United District, was opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., by Brother Cotton, the District Chief Ranger, at the "Hope and Anchor" Inn, Wokingham, assisted by the Brothers Hancock, Herbert, House, Moultry, Aldridge &c. The favourable state of the weather enabled the Brothers and members of the new Court to march in procession through the streets, headed by the town band playing popular airs and halting at the residences of several gentlemen who promote the welfare of the Order. On their return everything was admirably arranged and the new Court was formally opened by the District Chief Ranger and Brothers when twenty-five members were made and ten propositions received after which Brother Cotton delivered an interesting address to the new members upon the principles of Forestry, its rise and progress, and its present position as compared with other societies, its amalgamated number of Courts and members and its sound financial position. At the conclusion the room was thrown open and a large party assembled and spent a pleasant evening.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug

A marriage has been arranged between Lady Alice Hill and Lord Kenlie, son of the Earl of Earl Rective (Bective?).

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### BLIND CHARITY

On Wednesday the Corporation met at the Town Hall to distribute the charity of the late Mrs Sarah Yarnold who left £20 yearly to four blind persons-two men and two women-those residing in Hurst and Ruscombe to be preferred. There were numerous applications and the following were elected: William Alder of Hurst, Charles Waite of Reading, Lucy New of Woodley and Ann Mellet of Swyncombe, each receiving five pounds.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Oct

For some time past the good people of Wokingham (like the numerous letter writers to the London journals) have been vainly trying to ascertain the reason of the wide difference between the wholesale and retail price of meat. However, last Saturday evening the Town Crier announced that an enterprising West End butcher would sell any joints of beef for 6d per pound and a thriving trade he drove ere he closed his shutters he had sold out. He appears as well satisfied with the results that he announced his intention of repeating the experiment.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### COUNTY BALL

On Wednesday evening our Town Hall presented a most animated scene on the occasion of this ball being held. The room had been very tastefully decorated and at ten o'clock dancing commenced to the music of Burnham's Band, and the party which numbered 20 was composed of the principle county families in this neighbourhood, and included a numerous sprinkling of officers from Aldershot. Everything passed off most satisfactorily. The refreshment department as usual in the

hands of Mr. W. Chambers of the Market Place receiving the unqualified approval of the company.

#### THE LITERARY INSTITUTION

The "season" of this institution will be inaugurated on Thursday evening by an address from John Walter, Esq., who will also give particulars of his recent tour through the United States. The particulars are advertised elsewhere.

#### FAIR

This Annual November Pleasure Fair was held on Saturday and Monday last when there was the usual motley assemblage of shows, stalls and itinerant exhibitions, and as the weather was fine each day there was a large attendance, especially in the evening. Some of the inhabitants feared that as the fair extended over Sunday the usual quiet of the town on that day would be disturbed, but it was not so as a more orderly fair we do not recollect.

On Sunday afternoon the Rev. J. W. Charlton, the Incumbant of St. Sebastian's, held a special service in the Market Place, and delivered a most suitable address to an audience most exclusively of the fair people, who listened to the rev. gentleman with marked attention.

There was no case calling for the attention of the magistrates arising from the fair. The police keeping a close watch on the few suspicious characters observed.

## 1868

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

On Saturday evening the town alarmed by the cry of "Fire". It appears that a shed in the yard of the Red Lion Inn, in the middle of the Market Place, is used by the landlord, Mr Mattingly as a carpenter shop, and the upper part as a skittle alley. About half past nine flames were discovered in this shed. Plenty of assistance being at hand the doors were kept closed and water poured in from the roof by which judicious means the flames were subdued before much damage was done although a quantity of tools were destroyed. The fire no doubt was the result of an accident.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March

#### VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

On Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. The meet of the Queen's staghounds was fixed for Wokingham and in the morning it was rumoured that we were to be honoured by the presence of the Prince of Wales, and this rumour was soon confirmed by the arrival of the Prince's horses. The hounds arrived in the Market Place shortly before the appointed time and were met by an immense field of horsemen estimated at upwards of three hundred besides many ladies and carriages.

Exactly at twelve o'clock the Prince, accompanied by his Equerry, Captain Ellis, arrived in a carriage and pair, and having alighted at the "Rose" Hotel, he mounted his favourite chestnut hunter and proceeded through the streets amidst the hearty but respectful greetings of the assemblage to a meadow below All Saints' Church, where the deer, the celebrated "Doctor," specially reserved for this occasion was uncartered.

The Prince looked remarkably well and repeatedly acknowledged the cheers of the assemblage. The "Doctor," directly he was at liberty, bounded off in the direction of Bracknell, but being headed he turned into the grounds at Buckhurst and from thence

went on through Billingbear to Shottesbrook park at a great pace; at the last named place he got into a pond and a check ensued which was most welcome to such of the field as were still in the hunt.

The "Doctor" was safely taken near Taplow, after a good run. Three gentlemen only were up at the finish. The casualties were numerous, and the Prince had several falls—one soon after starting, his horse, owing to the giving-way of a rotten bank, falling with him. He was, however, immediately up and mounted again, with no worse result than a mark of Berkshire mud on his scarlet coat.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

On Tuesday evening Mr. Wade Clinton gave a farewell reading at the Town Hall, assisted by some musical friends, and a very excellent programme was issued. The attendance was not so large as at Mr. Clinton's previous readings, but those present were certainly well entertained and the musical pieces especially were rapturously applauded.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April

#### COUNTY BENCH 6TH APRIL

(Before John L. Gower, Esq.)

James Donnelly of Westminster, London, slipper maker, was brought up in the custody of Supt. Millard charged with feloniously stealing thirteen pieces of copper wire netting from the stained glass windows of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> February last, the property of the churchwardens. The prisoner and his brother have been, for a number of years, engaged in robbing the wire guard work from the exterior of illuminated windows and the prisoner was sentenced to four years penal servitude for this offence in January 1864. It will be remembered that on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> ult, two constables of the Reading Borough Police stopped two men near the Great Western Railway Station with a quantity of copper wire in their possession when one of them made his escape. The prisoner was apprehended by the superintendent of police at Wolverhampton in Staffordshire on the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, and has been identified as the same man who then escaped. Supt. Millard applied for a remand until Wednesday, which was granted.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June

#### ODD-FELLOWS' FETE

On Whit-Monday the members of the new "Royal Forest" Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 5066, celebrated their anniversary at Matthew's Green, near Wokingham, the seat of Captain Elliott Morres. A procession, headed by the Reading Saxe Horn Band, paraded the town, and then proceeded to the Park.

At one o'clock an excellent dinner was provided under a spacious tent, the caterer being Mr Newcombe, of the "Hope and Anchor" Inn, Wokingham. John Walter Esq., presided, and was supported by—Walter Esq., the Rev. T J Browne, the Rev. T Morres, Capt. Morres, Dr. Barford, Dr Waite, Mr Munden, Mr Westcott, &c.—After dinner the loyal toasts were proposed by the Chairman, and Captain Morres and Lieutenant Walter responded for the "Army and Navy". Mr Robert Blake, the secretary, then read the report from which it appeared that the Lodge was founded in 1862 with only thirteen members. The numbers have been gradually increased until this year they have reached 137. The receipts this year amounted to £4 10s and the expenditure to £3 2s.; but the total value now is £209 19s 8d., of which £190 2s. 11d. is in the Post Office Savings Bank. Eighteen members have been initiated during the present year.



The other toasts were – “The Bishop and Clergy,” “Success to the New Royal Forest Lodge,” &c. The Chairman said that if agreeable next year he should be happy to find a convenient place for the society at Bear Wood if they decided on paying him a visit. (Cheers.)

After dinner a variety of games were commenced and the festivities concluded with a ball at the “Hope and Anchor.”

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June

During the past week a movement has been set on foot in Wokingham to provide two or three hours of relaxation each week during the summer months for the assistants in the various business establishments to whom the enjoyment of the pleasant summer weather will be a boon much appreciated. It is arranged to close the shops at five o'clock every Wednesday (commencing next week) and from the unanimous feeling shown in favour of the scheme there is no doubt of its being generally adopted as the whole of the principal tradesmen have given their consent and it is especially gratifying to know that the plan originated with a few of the employers and not from the employed – a proof of kindness and consideration which will be truly valued.

The plan, we hear, has been adopted in various other places with the success and, where all join, the benefit is shared by all, and no one suffers in a business point of view.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July

The holiday on Coronation Day was kept here on Monday last when we were glad to see the shops all closed, and early in the morning numerous pleasure parties might be seen wending their way in various directions, all bent on enjoying their annual summer day's holiday. Many availed themselves of the excursion train to the seaside, a large party went to the fete at Whiteknights, some to the Crystal Palace, while others followed out their various ideas of pleasure in fishing parties, cricket matches, and other sources of amusement.

All returned home very tired, but very happy, and we have little doubt much the better for the enjoyment of the fresh air and the beautiful weather, to apply themselves with renewed energy to their business avocations, so rarely interrupted in so pleasant a manner.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TREAT TO WORKMEN

On Tuesday last the men employed by Mr Allaway, builder of Wokingham, had their usual excursion. The place chosen this year was the Crystal Palace on account of the Great Temperance Fete which took place on that day, most of the men being teetotallers.

Everything went off successfully and the men were well satisfied with their day out.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN HALL

The Town Hall is now being thoroughly repaired and decorated by Mr Frith of this town and when completed will no doubt present a very nice appearance. The interior has not yet been renovated since the building was first completed.

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> October

#### SANGER'S CIRCUS

This immense company paid a visit to this town last Saturday where their parade through the principal streets excited much interest and admiration. The camels and elephants were especially attractive. There were two performances during the day; that in the morning was pretty well patronised and in the evening the tent was thronged.

The performances were excellent throughout and the feats of the equestrians and acrobats, and the Arab troupe were particularly astonishing.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

This Trust will expire tomorrow (Sunday) at twelve o'clock at which hour the gates will be thrown open, and no further tolls taken, and as soon as practicable, the toll houses, side bars, and other property of the trustees will be sold and cleared away. The future repair of the road will fall on the various parishes through which it passes.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### PENNY READINGS

The Wokingham Working Men's Club have determined during next week to resume the Penny Readings. The committee have also arranged to hold a tea meeting at a moderate charge.

#### MAGISTRATE'S MEETING

On Tuesday last there was a very full attendance of the Country Justices at the Town Hall to consider whether it would be more convenient for the Bench to sit in future one hour earlier when a resolution moved by Sir Warwick Morehead and seconded by Dr. Bridges was unanimously adopted, fixing the hour of meeting for the future of Eleven instead of Twelve o'clock, the alteration to take effect from the present time.

#### FAIR

Our fair on Monday and Tuesday, owing probably to the fine weather was certainly the largest we have had for some years. The exhibition and stalls were of the usual description. Sangar's Wax Models and a Steam Roundabout evidently were the greatest attractions, the latter doing a thriving trade. The arrangement of the Alderman to prevent the fair people taking up their positions in the Town on the Saturday and Sunday by admitting them free of charge, with their cattle, into his meadow, was much appreciated by all, the Town being as quiet as usual on Sunday whilst the travellers were glad to find a turn out with excellent feed without charge. We are glad to say that not a single case arose during the fair requiring Magisterial interference.

#### WINDSOR FOREST TURNPIKE

On Sunday last at midday this trust expired after an existence of upwards of a century and at a meeting of the Trustees on Wednesday last, arrangements were made for the sale by an auction of the toll houses, gates &c. The sites of the houses will be offered to the adjoining land owners and in a very short time all trace of the turnpikes will be gone.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### GALE BLOWS DOWN ELM TREE

The terrific gale of Sunday night laid low an object of much local interest in the town – the fine old elm tree near the Roe Buck Inn, in the Market Place, which was regarded as a great ornament. The tree fell about half past one in the morning with a loud crash arousing many of those living near from their sleep. It was fortunate the disaster happened in the night when there was no one about and also that it fell towards the centre of the Market Place. Formerly there were several elms in Broad Street but they have disappeared one by one until the tree in the Market Place alone remained as a relic of past ages, and the theme of many's a tale of hairbreadth escapes when on bull-baiting days our forefathers occasionally had to scramble into the friendly tree for safety.

1869

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June

EARLY CLOSING

It is said that the practice adopted here last summer, of closing the shops at five o'clock on Wednesday evenings will be resumed on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, and that it is likely to be as general as it was last year, as it was found to cause no inconvenience to any one, whilst to those closely engaged in business the extra hours of weekly relaxation was much appreciated.

ENTERTAINMENT

This week Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Morris have given two performances comprising of Music and Magic, in the Town Hall. Mrs. Morris' sleight of hand is very extraordinary, the various tricks being performed with much dexterity, whilst Mr. Morris's performance on the Orphonic Crystal, or Musical Glasses forms a very pleasing accompaniment. We regret that they were not more largely patronised. At the conclusion a novel feature was introduced in the distribution amongst the audience, by lottery, of some handsome presents of elegant and useful articles, which created much amusement, and appeared to send the audience home in good spirits.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June

EARLY CLOSING

The arrangement proposed for closing the shops at five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon was resumed for the present summer on Wednesday and we are glad to notice that the movement was gainfully adopted.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July

GAS COMPANY

At the anniversary meeting of the shareholders of this carefully managed company, the directors reported such a favourable state of affairs that a dividend of 6% was declared and a further reduction of sixpence per thousand in the price of gas was also resolved on. This is very satisfactory both to the shareholders and consumers of gas in the town. The retiring directors were re-elected unanimously.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Aug

FREE LIBRARY

On the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., a preliminary meeting was held in the Town Hall, presided over by the Alderman, to take into consideration the subject of establishing a "Free Library" in Wokingham, in consequence of the very liberal offer of the Hon.

Auberon Herbert, in aid of the object. A discussion ensued, in which all heartily joined in the opinion that the hon. Gentleman's offer was most handsome, and that an effort ought to be made to enable our town to participate in the benefits which the foundation of a Free Library, on a large scale was likely to confer on the future education and improvement of the inhabitants, as no doubt the access to a carefully selected library might enable many a future student to follow the pursuit of literature, without which his progress would be almost impossible. We trust the project will commend itself to the support of the residents in the neighbourhood as its benefits would not be entirely local. We observe that the project has been taken up with much spirit at Windsor.

Sat 4 Sept

#### CATTLE DISEASE

We regret to state that the prevalent complaint called the Foot and Mouth disease, has broken out with considerable virulence in Wokingham and the neighbourhood. The complaint, we understand, is not dangerous to the life of the animals attacked, although it leaves them in a low and weak condition, but it is very infectious, much more so than rinderpest. The inspector under the new Contagious Diseases Act, Mr. J. Darling, veterinary surgeon, of Bracknell, has visited the various cases, and we trust that if the owners of the cattle attacked will but sympathetically isolate them from all others, the disease may soon be extinguished.

#### COTTAGE GARDENS

It has long been a matter of complaint here, like most other towns, that from the increasing value of land in the immediate vicinity of the town, very few of the cottagers are possessed of a garden, or at least so small a place as to be of little value for the supply of vegetables for the use of the family; and when we see in country places the well-stocked gardens attached to the cottages, it seems a great incentive to the industry of the poorer classes in towns is denied them. We are therefore glad to hear that when having been represented to John Walter, Esq., M.P., he has kindly directed that a large arable field in Star Lane, near the town, shall be let out to the poor in allotments of one quarter of an acre, no person to have more than one plot, and to use it for spade husbandry only, as a garden.

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Mr. Thurton the Ventriloquist this weekend gave one of his entertaining performances at the Town Hall. He very aptly calls it a representation of "Odd Folks" and certainly he introduced his audience to some of the oddest specimens of humanity ever met with and by the aid of his superior ventriloquism kept everyone highly amused.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

The brilliant meteor was observed in this neighbourhood on Saturday evening a few minutes before seven. One person particularly noticed the clear blue light observed after the disappearance of the meteor which he described as being equal to the light of the full moon being a clear soft though bright light lasting nearly ten minutes before it entirely faded away.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### PENNY READINGS

The Working Men's Club commenced the series of their Penny Readings on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. The chair was filled by Dr. Barford, a zealous friend to the club. The programme was gone through in a very creditable manner, but the audience was much less numerous as usual, owing probably to the increased charges for admission.

On Tuesday evening, the readings were resumed, at the old prices of admission, when the hall was well filled. Mr. H. Simmons took the chair, and the songs and readings were well received; the glee by members of the club being especially applauded.

#### BARRETTI'S TROUPE OF CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

Last week they gave two concerts in our Town Hall, which were tolerably well attended, although there have recently been so many similar entertainments given in the town. Some of the performers were decidedly above the average merit, particularly the performances on the cornet of H. Barretti, leader; the dancing of Bob Deller, and the tambourine player.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The tradesmen of Wokingham, in accordance with the practice resolved on in most towns, have agreed to close their establishments on Monday week, the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. So as to enable their assistants (and also themselves to enjoy of three consecutive days, and thereby doubtless enabling many a happy Christmas party to be more complete than it otherwise would be.—The Wokingham Savings Bank will be open on Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, so as to cause as little inconvenience to the public as possible.

## 1870

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

In consequence of the intended opening of the Electric Telegraph at the Post office it was found that the accommodation at the late office was much too restricted. Mr. Spencer, the Postmaster, has therefore fitted up the house adjoining the late office for the combined offices for the Telegraph and Post, by which the public convenience will doubtless be much increased.

On Monday evening Signor Bosco gave an entertainment in the Town Hall, consisting of magical illusions and Sleight of hand performances. The Signor proved himself an adept at his art.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May

#### LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL

On Wednesday the foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Chapel was laid in this town on the site of the old building which was erected fifteen years ago by the Rev. J Waterhouse. The new chapel will be built by Mr. Whiting of Reading from plans prepared by Mr. T.S. Lansdowne, architect, of Swindon.

The shape of the building is a parallelogram and will be composed of red brick with Bathstone dressings. The roof will be open timber boldly built diagonally, boarded, stained and varnished. The seats? will be massive and open and will also be stained and varnished.

The style is the 14<sup>th</sup> century Gothic and the street front will contain three gables with centre porch and the roof will be supported on stone corbels. The dimensions are 51 feet by 33 feet and there will be accommodation for 350. The cost is about £1,000.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July

The marriage of the Marquis of Downshire and Miss Balfour, eldest daughter of Mr. And Lady Georgina Balfour of Balbernie Fifeshire is appointed to take place on Tuesday next at St. George's, Hanover Square.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### DEATH OF JAMES CHAMBERS OF BROAD STREET.

The deceased was one of the oldest traders of the town and he also held the offices of Sergeant-at-Mace; Toll Collector and Hall Keeper of the Corporation which offices have been held by the family for the last century.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### THE SICK AND WOUNDED

Notice has been given that collections will be made here tomorrow after divine service in aid of the fund for the sick and wounded in the war when it is hoped a liberal sum may be contributed to this good cause the need of which is so apparent to all who peruse the harrowing but graphic details contained in the letters recently published from the society's agents on the continent.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

On Monday evening last a meeting was held in our Town Hall with the view of forming in Wokingham a sub-division to the 10<sup>th</sup> Berks Rifles, usually known as the Winkfield Corps. Alderman Goodchild presided and introduced Captain Carter, Adjutant of the Berkshire Battalion, who addressed the meeting and was followed by Lieut. Cave, the Rev. C. Tidd Pratt and other gentlemen, and after several names of volunteers had been received an adjournment of a fortnight was made in order to make the necessary arrangements. We heartily wish the movement success as surely our town and neighbourhood ought to furnish enough recruits to make up the 10<sup>th</sup> Berks to a company.

#### DEATH OF JOHN BALSTON WALTER

John Balston Walter, the eldest son of John Walter III, died on the evening of Christmas Eve whilst skating on one of the lakes of the Bearwood Estate with some relatives. The ice gave way and two of his brothers and a cousin fell into the water and were in danger of drowning. John went to the rescue, but almost immediately the sudden shock of the icy water stopped his heart.

1871

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb

## THE QUEEN'S HOUNDS

The meet of the Royal Pack on Friday last was the Market Place, Wokingham, where a numerous field assembled. At twelve o'clock the noble master of the Buckhounds, the Earl of Cork, gave orders to have the deer uncarted near All Saint's church. The "Doctor" on being let out, bounded off over the meadows by Stokes farm and Marchfield to Binfield church, and then turned to the right to Warfield where he was taken. A second deer was uncarted near the "Thee Frogs," and after a sharp run was captured at Newland.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

## THE EDUCATION QUESTION

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, of members of the committees of various parochial schools and others, to consider the financial condition of the several schools in the Parish of Wokingham, with reference to "Elementary Education Act, 1870" at which there were present Mr. Alderman Goodchild, the Revs. J.T. Brown, W.T. Henham, T.P. Brandram, F. Robinson, and H.R. Morres, and P.G. Scorey; Capt. Walter, Messrs. J.L. Roberts, E. Morres, C.M. Viall, T. Cooke, E. Roberts, E. Weight, J.S. Kerritt, T. May, S. Hankey, W. Gibson, E. Frankum, E. Dalley, E. Butler. G. Jameson, T.S. Brown, T.M. Wescot, and J. Heald. Mr. A.L. Goodchild having been declared chairman, the Rev J.T. Brown gave a lucid epitome of the new Education Act, and a discussion ensued on its provisions and the regulations of the Council of Education, and the condition, financially and otherwise, of the schools.

It was then proposed by the Rev. W.T. Henham, seconded by Mr. J.L. Roberts and resolved, "That the schools of the parish be carried on the voluntary principle at present." It was proposed by Capt. Walter, seconded by Mr. May, and resolved "That application be made to all the owners and occupiers in the parish for aid towards the maintenance of the schools."

## FIRE

On Saturday afternoon about half-past three, much consternation was caused by the discovery of a fire at the residence of Mr. H. Trickey Dunning, wine and spirit merchant, in the Market-place. The fire was first discovered in a bedroom at the back of the house by the smoke issuing from a closet containing clothes, and an alarm was instantly raised, but as the premises are very old and contain much timber the fire rapidly made progress between the ceilings and the roof. In a few minutes plenty of willing hands set to work, and the Wokingham fire engine being close to the spot was got to work without delay, but as the flames were under the roof it was impossible for some time to get at the fire, although dense volumes of smoke poured out of the windows and through the roof.

By pulling off the tiles an entrance was affected but the smoke was so great that it was difficult to ascertain precisely where to direct the water, but one or two, regardless of danger got in with the hose, and after about half an hour succeeded in subduing the flames, indeed, when it could be got to bear on the fire so great was the force of water from the engine that it seemed to beat out the fire directly and to the fact that our fire engine being in such an excellent condition we attribute the escape of the town from a sad calamity as buildings all round are very old, and the stock-in-trade of course of a very inflammable nature.

Indeed so great did the danger appear at one time that the engines from Reading were telegraphed for, and within an hour the "County" engine arrived, but it was not used as all danger then had ceased. The cause of the fire was found to be an old flue, (the existence of which was not known), and which after the fire was discovered behind the paper of the bedroom.

Much damage was caused by the water and the hasty removal of the furniture, &c., but we find the house was insured in the "County" office, although through an inadvertence from Mr. Dunning having changed his residence recently, the insurance on the furniture had not been kept up, so that he will be a considerable loser.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July

#### VESTRY MEETING WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

Last week a meeting was held in our Town Hall which was very largely attended and excited much interest to consider the position in which the Town of Wokingham and its suburbs are placed with reference to the adoption of the Sewage Utilization Act. In order to explain the present aspect of the question, it is necessary to state that in 1866, after much opposition and a poll of the parish, it was resolved by a majority to place a district then defined under the provisions of the Sewage Utilization Act, and a committee was then formed to carry out the act. After one or two meetings of the committee the subject was abandoned and it has been in abeyance ever since.

In the interim the Highway Surveyors, on complaint of the Inspector of Nuisances, have expended a considerable amount on the drainage of the district, and the works executed by them were approved and sanctioned by the Vestry. However at Lady Day last, a ratepayer appealed against the allowance of the Surveyor's accounts, on the ground that the sums charged therein on account of the drainage had been illegally expended, because of the vote of 1866 the sewer authority then created, was the only body legally enabled to execute such works. In this view the appellant stated that he was fortified by the opinion of the Secretary of State; and thus affairs have come to a deadlock, the Surveyors naturally feeling indisposed to act.

At the meeting Mr Alderman Wheeler having been elected chairman, Mt. Edward Roberts ably and clearly laid before the Vestry the present position of affairs when a proposal to appoint a fresh committee under the Sewage Act was met by an amendment to postpone the matter for twelve months, but this was negatived, and ultimately an adjournment until the 20<sup>th</sup> July was carried. In the meantime it will be well for the ratepayers to carefully consider the whole subject as matters cannot remain in their present state; and if we do not keep control of the local drainage in the hands of our own elected committee it is possible Government may step in, and then the ratepayers may find themselves powerless to prevent an expenditure which they now have the power of controlling.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> July

#### THE SEWAGE QUESTION

Since the Vestry meeting held last week at which a large majority refused to appoint a commission to act under the powers of the Sewage Utilisation Act which it is considered was adopted here between four or five years ago much attention has been given to the subject and a memorial to the Home secretary is being prepared and will and will at once presented. We may therefore expect an official inquiry into the sanitary state of the town and its suburbs an inquiry which viewed with very different feelings by the two opposing parties, the one stating that we have nothing to fear from



the improvements recently effected on the public drains whilst the others contend that in many places the drainage is wholly inadequate to remove the sewage that the water supply is insufficient and often impure and that only under the compulsory powers of the Act can the evils they depict effectually be remedied.

We shall watch the result with much interest as the future position of the town will be greatly affected by the result.

#### POTATO DISEASE

We regret to hear from various places in this neighbourhood that the disease has shown itself, and fears are entertained for the safety of the crop, which otherwise promises to be unusually heavy. The early date at which the blight has been developed and the showery weather which favours its extension causes much anxiety for the safety of the crop, still dry and warm weather would rapidly ripen it, and by raising the potatoes early the greater part it is hoped may be preserved.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### THE CAMP

During the past week our town has maintained its wonted quietude notwithstanding various rumours of attack, siege, night surprise, and other military operations; indeed, the belief begins to be entertained that after all we may not even be invaded at all.

Many persons have paid visits to Hartford Bridge Flats, and have been much interested in the scenes of camp life there, and have inspected the Cavalry Brigade at Bramshill and Hasely Heath, the beautiful condition of their horses and the equipment of the various regiments being much admired. The exercises of the past week have been chiefly directed to inure the troops to out-door life, and bring the various branches of the service into contact with each other, preparatory to the real work of the mimic campaign of next week, when the manoeuvres of the whole force will take place, and a grand display of military tactics practiced never before seen in England.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information beforehand of the intended movements, it being necessary to avoid too great an assemblage of sightseers at one point, which might interfere with the perfect action of the forces, and them perhaps near the effect of the day's plan.

Among the officers of the Reserve Forces who have received certificates of proficiency in their duties after examination by Boards of Examiners appointed by the Secretary of State for War was Ensign Fry, 7<sup>th</sup> Berkshire (Sandhurst) Rifles.

#### POST OFFICE

After holding the office for nearly thirty years, Mr. Spencer has resigned the Postmastership, and the appointment has been given to Mrs. Barford, of the Market-place. We trust that increased accommodation will be afforded the public in the new office, as it has long been a matter of complaint that the old office was much too small for the increasing business of the Post Office and the telegraphic services combined.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### FAIR

The annual November pleasure fair was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, when, fortunately, the weather was beautifully fine. There was, as usual, a large attendance of stalls, shows, shooting galleries, roundabouts, & c. The roundabouts (two driven by steam) especially seemed to attract a large share of patronage. Superintendent Millard and several constables kept such a vigilant eye on the few suspicious characters present that we heard of no robbery or disturbance, and it is a subject of congratulation that not even a charge of drunkenness was preferred arising out of the fair.

Some of the inhabitants expressed a wish that the recent Act of Parliament of the Abolition of Fairs might be put in force here, whilst others are favourable to the continuance of the old custom.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

The committee of the "Leigh Hunt" Club, recently established here, gave an excellent entertainment in the Town Hall last Monday evening, when, with the able assistance kindly rendered them by some friends from Reading and the neighbourhood, a pleasing programme of readings and music, both vocal and instrumental, was gone through. It was regretted that the attendance was not larger.

#### POST OFFICE

We would remind the public, especially business men, that the letter-box closes now for the evening mail at 7 o'clock instead of 7.30 as formerly. Letters with an additional stamp are still received up to 7.15, when the box closes. It certainly seems strange that situated as Wokingham is so near London and Reading where the letters are despatched, that advantage cannot be taken of one of the later trains, and the hours for posting extended instead of restricted. It is hoped that before very long greater postal facilities will be accorded to this town

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

The holiday was duly observed in this town, and the following day (Tuesday) was also kept as a general holiday, nearly all the shops being closed. A large number of persons attended the meet of the Royal Stag Hounds near the "Roe Buck," Binfield. The inmates of the Union Workhouse were not forgotten; by the liberality of the Guardians they were regaled on Christmas Day with a dinner of hot meat, plum pudding, and ale. On Tuesday evening the inmates were much amused by an entertainment consisting of vocal and instrumental music, charades, &c., capitally rendered by Mr. Norry and family, assisted by several friends.

During the usual interval in the programme, each of the audience received an orange, piece of cake, and a glass of home-made wine, and on separating were loud in their expressions of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Norry, the master and mistress, for their kindness.

Sat Jan 13<sup>th</sup>

### THE SEWAGE QUESTION

As we anticipated the Local Government Board being wholly unable to reconcile memorials sent up, have directed an official enquiry to be made and have notified that I.T. Harrison Esq, the inspector appointed for the purpose, will proceed with his enquiry on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock, at the Town Hall when he will be prepared to receive the evidence of all persons entitled to be heard upon this important subject.

Sat. Feb 10th

### RAILWAY FARES

The London & South West Railway Company have announced in their time tables this month that they carry third-class passengers by every train. This is a boon to the poorer class of travellers and a concession to the public wants most honourable to the Board of Directors as the inconvenient hours at which the third-class passengers are compelled to travel on most of our railways is a serious hardship on those whose circumstances compel them to avail themselves of cheap fares.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March

### THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TOWN

We lately reported at considerable length the proceedings at an inquiry held by J.T. Harrison, Esq., the inspector appointed by the Local Government Board to inquire into the sanitary state of this town, in consequence of a petition presented to the Board complaining of the defective drainage, and the alleged insufficiency and impurity of the water supply. Evidence of a most conflicting nature was adduced, and at the close the Inspector took with him four specimens of water for analysis, which he had selected from different parts of the town. The report of the inspector has been looked for with much curiosity and anxiety, as it was felt that the future interests of the town would be much affected by the nature of the report, and the steps requisite to remedy any defects that might be found. This report has now arrived, and it has been deposited with the Assistant-overseer for inspection. A Vestry meeting is summoned for Thursday next at three o'clock, in the Town-hall to take the document into consideration. The following is a copy of the report. It demands the serious and attentive consideration of the inhabitants:--

Copy:

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.  
29<sup>th</sup> February 1872

Sir,--I am directed by the Local Government Board to forward herewith to the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority of Wokingham, for their information; a copy (enclosed) of Mr. Harrison's Reports on the Inquiry held by him at Wokingham on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> days of January last, in pursuance of the petition from inhabitants, ratepayers and owners of property in the district, alleging default on the part of the Sewer Authority, in respect of the water supply and sewerage thereof.

I am to call the attention of the Vestry to the 49<sup>th</sup> Section of the Sanitary Act, 1866, and to the duty thereby upon the Local Government Board when complaint is made of default by a Sewer Authority.

I am to request that the Vestry will, forthwith, show cause why an Order should not issue on the matter, in pursuance of the Petition and of the 49<sup>th</sup> Section of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) T. Taylor

To the Clerk of the Vestry, Wokingham, Berkshire.

SANITARY ACT 1866  
Wokingham, Berkshire

Report on a Petition presented by certain Inhabitants, Ratepayers and Owners of Property in the Special Drainage District, comprising the Town and part of the Parish of Wokingham, in the County of Berks, complaining that the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority, have made default in providing the District with proper Sewerage and Water supply.

Local Government Act Office  
21<sup>st</sup> February 1872

To the Right Honourable James Stansfeld M.P.  
President of the Local Government Board

Sir,

I have the honour to report that a Petition (No. 5932) was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December last from certain inhabitants, ratepayers and owners of property of the Special Drainage District, comprising the Town and part of the Parish of Wokingham, complaining that the Vestry, as the Sewer Authority, have made default in providing the district with proper sewage and water supply; the danger arises to the health of the inhabitants from the insufficiency and unwholesomeness of the existing supply of water; and that a proper supply can be got at a reasonable cost. A copy of this Petition was forwarded to the Sewer Authority for their observations upon it, and their reply accompanied by a letter from Mr. J. L. Roberts (No. 6295) was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1872. The Vestry state, in this reply, that the supply of water is good, that their town is one of the best drained and one of the healthiest in the kingdom; and that they consider a very great injustice has been done to the town and parish at large by those who made the complaint.

This reply was not deemed satisfactory and an Inquiry was ordered; this inquiry I held at the Town Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and by adjournment at the request of the Vestry, on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1872. Mr. Soames appeared for the petitioners; neither Mr. Roberts nor anyone else appeared to represent the Sewer Authority; but Mr. Frankum represented the counter memorialists who signed the reply above referred to—considered the reply of the Vestry. It appears that this Special Drainage District was duly formed in 1866, and that the Vestry appointed a committee for one year., that the committee met once, but there is no record of that meeting, and nothing has been done by the Sewer Authority up to the present time. Mr Soames, who was a member of the committee, apologised for this inactivity by saying that there is a complication of authorities in the town which paralysed the action of the Sewer Authority. This is, however, no sufficient excuse; the powers of the Sewer Authority are well defined and ample.

#### SEWERAGE

The greater part of the existing town drainage was constructed about 30 years ago; some of it before that date. These old drains have been taken up in some places and relaid at a greater depth below the surface, and about two years ago, three of the main

outfalls were extended for the purpose of remedying the nuisance arising from sewage stagnating in the open ditches; with these exceptions, nothing has been done to the town drainage for 30 years.

The existing drains were constructed by, and are now under the control of, the Highway Surveyors; they were intended to carry off surface water only, but they are now used for a very different purpose; the contents of many water closets are discharged into them, and they carry off much slop water and the overflow from cesspools. It appears that the inclination of these drains is insufficient to prevent their being choked up. These drains are unquestionably made to carry off surface water only and they should have been used for this purpose alone. They now discharge sewage into water courses which it is the duty of the sewer authority to protect from pollution. The sewer authority should obtain a plan and estimate for a system of town sewerage, by which, if possible all the sewage should be brought to one outfall, and then purified before being discharged into running water.

There are many houses which have no connection with the existing drains. The sewage from these is thrown into cesspools. The contents of some of the water closets is also discharged into cesspools. It appears that some of these cesspools are emptied out only once a year, and even then their contents are not removed for agricultural purposes, but thrown into a sump within a few yards of the cesspool.

The subsoil is a free gravel and sand, can any system be conceived better calculated to pollute the water below the surface? The drains, constructed 30 years ago are almost certain to be open-jointed so that through them also the subsoil water is in all probability polluted.

#### WATER SUPPLY

There is no public water supply. There is, however, an abundant supply from wells in all parts of the town, with the exception of about 27 houses occupied by 100 persons, who are obliged to purchase water from the Emm Brook. One witness said there were 280 wells within the town, and he knew of no town better supplied from natural springs.

It is unnecessary, however, to make any further remarks on the quality of water at command within the town, as its quality is so unquestionably abominable. I took four samples of water when I visited Wokingham on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. Two of them from wells which I expected to find were polluted (Nos. 67 and 25), one from a pump at the Police-station at the Town Hall (No. 68), and one from Mr. Cooke's garden (No. 66), which I selected as the water least liable to pollution. Of these samples of water Dr. Frankland reports that they all "are entirely unfit for human consumption, and, in the interest of the health of Wokingham, all the wells supplying them ought to be closed at once. Nos. 67, 25 and 68 might be used with advantage for the fertilization of land. No. 25 is one of the worst waters I have ever met with; it has more than twice the manure value of average London sewage."

There were two privies used by 37 people, and a sump within 10 yards of the well from which sample No. 25 was taken; there was also a privy for the children (111 in number) attending a school within a very short distance. The first two mentioned privies had not been cleaned out for more than a year, and when cleaned out the contents were thrown into the sump close to them.

There was a sink and four privies very close to No. 67. There was a common water closet close to the Police-station pump, from which sample 68 was taken. Mr. Cooke's pump is far from any houses, but one of the gentlemen present when the sample was taken remarked that it was near the site of an old hedge and ditch which

used to be foul before Mr. Cooke enclosed his garden. The result of Dr. Frankland's analysis fully confirms the evidence of Mr. J.G. Barford, Professor of Chemistry at Wellington College, who had tested several samples of water taken from wells in different parts of the town. One sample contained 90 grains of solid matter in a gallon; another 180 grains; a third 190 grains; a fourth 80 grains; a fifth 40 grains; a sixth 190 grains. With such evidence of the impurity of the water used in the town, it is not surprising that in 1854 cholera was very severe in Wokingham, or that there have been two serious outbreaks of typhoid fever since. Mr. Wright says that the cases were scattered all over the town in 1870. The same cause, pollution of water by sewage, produced the same effects everywhere. The fever was more severe among the poor, and was aggravated by overcrowding, but to the water both Mr. Barford and Mr. Wright attribute these outbreaks. These gentlemen, with Dr. Noad and Dr. Reid, who signed the petition but did not give evidence, are the only medical men in the district.

Mr. Frankum did not endeavour to rebut the testimony of the medical witnesses, and said that his clients were prepared to be bound by the result of the analysis of samples of water submitted to Dr. Frankland.

This result is sufficiently conclusive and there cannot be a doubt as to urgent necessity for closing the polluted wells without delay, and further, for the sewer authority to obtain a sufficient and wholesome supply of water for the inhabitants, as there exists evident danger to their health from the water at present used by them for domestic purposes.

On this point Mr. Barford stated that there was an area of six acres, called Langborough, which belongs to the town, and is vested in the highway surveyors, where water can be obtained at a depth of 30 feet in abundance. This area is situated about 300 or 400 yards from the town, and is surrounded by 50 or 60 acres of land, clear of houses. Mr. Barford has not tested the water, but he thought it would be found of good quality.

I am not prepared to endorse this opinion without more exact information, and I fear the sewer authority must go further afield to obtain a supply free from suspicion of pollution. Wokingham is built almost entirely upon a detached patch of the "Lower Bagshot Band" formation, which immediately overlies the London clay. The ground is somewhat elevated and falls in every direction. This patch of Bagshot sand is edged with pink and ? on the accompanying plan Mr. Barford of the Wokingham Special Drainage District. Langborough, the area referred to by Mr. Barford is coloured dark pink. The area of the patch of Bagshot sand is about 350 acres, of which about 150 acres are covered more or less with houses. Langborough lies towards the south-east of it, and there are abundant springs where the gravel crops out in this direction. Now the rain falling upon this patch of Bagshot sand, is the sole source of supply to the wells below; in dry seasons, the water stands below the surface in different parts of the town at depths varying from three or four feet to upwards of 30 feet; in wet seasons the water rises very generally within a few feet of the surface; the patch of sand thus forms an inverted reservoir, the water being upheld by capillary attraction between the interstices of the fine sand; this reservoir is filled by the rain falling uniformly over the surface. It is emptied partly by water drawn from the wells, and chiefly by that issuing from springs situated towards the south-east.

The water found at Langborough must, therefore, consist to a great extent of that which fell as rain on the part covered with houses, the least polluted water would, I think, be found towards the north and north-west of the town, but it would probably be less abundant than that to be obtained from Langborough. I little consideration will

explain how the well water is polluted to the degree shown by Dr. Frankland's analysis. The 280 wells are all centres of attraction for water percolating the sand bed. The water will always stand at a lower level in the wells than in the sand adjoining, the water level in each case forming an inverted cone, the well forming the apex. By this operation all the polluted water within a certain area of the well must gravitate towards it.

When the water stands high in the well this area will be comparatively small and the amount of dilution great, but when the water is low in the wells, and a heavy rainfall occurs, the surface polluted water will be drawn in abundantly to the well and being then slightly diluted is at such times most dangerous. I must further draw attention to the fact that the subsoil for a considerable distance around some, if not all of the Wokingham wells must from the many years of saturation with sewage matter be in a very dangerous condition; and that if every precaution were taken in future to prevent further pollution by removing all foul liquids by a thoroughly good sewerage system, and establishing a proper system of privies and ashpits from which extraneous liquid was carefully excluded, it would probably be a very long time before the water in many parts of the wells would be sufficiently pure to be used for domestic purposes.

At the same time I see no reason why if such precautions were taken the well water should not, in the course of time, afford a wholesome supply. Sewer authorities have no power at present to close the private wells, however impure water may be. The case of Wokingham shows very strongly the necessity for granting such powers. In the absence of such powers it is clearly the duty of the Wokingham Sewer Authority to test the well water in use from time to time, and to exert their moral influence for the purpose of closing every well which yields impure water. This will probably lead to the closing of many wells, and some immediate provision will be requisite for the supply of water to those persons who are thus deprived of the water they now use.

I would suggest that the sewer authority should carefully select spots of ground as far removed as possible from sources of pollution, and then put down Morton's Abyssinian screw pumps for public use keeping at the same time an anxious eye on the purity of the water thus obtained.

Should they fail to procure in this manner water of sufficient purity there seems to be no alternative but to establish Waterworks and bring from a distance a good supply for the use of the town. Many of the inhabitants seem to think that Wokingham is one of the healthiest towns in the kingdom but it appears from Mr. Barford's evidence that the rate of mortality from August 1869 to August 1870 was 29 per 1,000 and in the same period 1870/71 it was 25 per 1,000. This is extremely high for a small town situated as Wokingham is. It is Mr. Barford's opinion, which I believe is correct, that but for the impure water used in the town Wokingham would be one of the healthiest towns in the kingdom, and the sewer authority should never rest till they brought it to this condition.

I recommend that an order be made on the Sewer Authority of the special drainage district comprising the town and part of the parish of Wokingham requiring them to commence a system of main sewerage within one month of the date of the order and to take immediate steps for having the condition of the ashpits and privies improved. Further that they commence the works necessary for affording the inhabitants of their districts a supply of wholesome water within one month of date of order. I recommend that the Sewer Authority be urged to exercise their utmost influence to prevent the use of impure water throughout the town.

I remain, Sir

Your obedient Servant  
(Signed) JOHN THORNHILL HARRISON

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

#### ALARMING FIRE

On the night of Monday last, one of the most serious conflagrations witnessed for many years in this neighbourhood, broke out in the extensive timber yard and saw mills of Mr. Thomas M. Wescott, in Peach-street, in this town, which in a few hours entirely destroyed the mills with the costly machinery therein, and the large and valuable stock of timber and building materials stored in the sheds and piles around.

The premises were closed about half-past six in the evening, when all was apparently safe. About a quarter to ten o'clock flames and smoke were discovered on the ground floor of the mill, which in a short time spread over the whole of the premises. The building was of great height, having been built many years ago, and used as a silk factory. Mr. Wescott on purchasing the property fitted it up as corn and seed mills, and the business having rapidly extended, fresh machinery and new buildings had been from time to time added, until it became, we believe, the largest business establishment in that trade in the country.

There was a staircase from the basement to the top of the building, and the flames rushed up and spread from floor to floor with incredible rapidity. In less than half an hour the mill was one mass of flames, presenting a grand, but sad spectacle. The engine belonging to the town was soon on the spot, and Supt. Millard with his men, directed their attention first to cut off the communication from the burning buildings with the street. With great celerity the adjacent buildings were emptied of their contents and pulled down, the engine also was kept continually playing on them, and thus by great exertions the fire was prevented reaching the houses on the east side of Peach-street, which frequently were in great danger, owing to the intense heat. In fact the buildings repeatedly caught fire, but the flames were as often extinguished. The fire, aided by a rather strong westerly breeze rapidly seized on the long timber sheds and adjoining the mill, which were filled with foreign timber recently converted, and as these burst with great fury, the flames illuminated the county for miles around.

And a great crowd of people assembled. Many from Reading even arrived at the scene, and heartily set to work to remove the timber from danger; but so rapidly did the flames spread that much which had been removed at an early period of the fire to what was thought a safe distance was caught by the flames and destroyed.

For about three hours the fire burned furiously and as the roofs of the building fell many of those who were rendering assistance were placed in danger from the falling walls, but happily no one sustained personal injury.

It is difficult as yet to ascertain the exact amount of damage done, but it has been estimated at about five thousand pounds, and we regret to learn that Mr. Wescott is only partially insured in the Phoenix Office, so that he will sustain a heavy loss by this disastrous event. The scene at the ruins has been visited by a large number of persons and it will be a long time before the mass of brickwork and rubbish can be removed. The heat was very great even on Wednesday evening. The origin of the disaster cannot be distinctly traced, but Mr. Wescott attributes it to the heat and friction of the machinery. The fire most probably had been smouldering for some hours, and must have burst into a flame after the mill was closed.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July

#### THE LATE FIRE



We are requested to state that subscriptions are being raised on behalf of the men who lost their tools on this occasion. Mr. T. Skerritt, of Wokingham, has kindly consented to act as treasurer, to whom subscriptions may be sent. A list of contributions already received will be found in our advertising columns.

#### BURGLARIES

On the night of Tuesday last no less than three houses in Wokingham were broken into and one or two more visited by the burglars, but through the watchfulness of a dog, in one instance at least, their designs were frustrated.

At Shute End, the residence of Mr. Weight, surgeon, an entrance was affected by opening a window on the ground floor at the back of the house. The thieves ransacked three rooms down stairs, and carried off silver plate to the amount of upwards of thirty pounds. They were evidently experienced hands, as they carefully examined the whole, and left behind them the plated articles. They decamped without alarming the inmates, and the robbery was first discovered by the servants in the morning.

The burglars then visited the house of Mr. Gadd in Rose Street, and got into the garden from the back fields; they then opened a sliding window at the back, and entered and left the house without the knowledge of the inmates, but their booty was more confined to a sum of fifteen shillings.

They also got into the house of Mr. C. Higgs, a few doors below Mr. Gadd's in a similar manner, but it is supposed that they were disturbed as nothing was missed.

A few doors off the inmates of the house were alarmed by the furious barking of the yard dog, which doubtless caused the thieves to decamp. No trace of the men has yet been discovered, although the police are actively pursuing their enquiries. These robbers following so quickly on similar ones during the spring have raised a feeling of insecurity amongst the townspeople who feel that they are insufficiently protected and that the police force stationed there, however efficient, is inadequate for the surveillance of this largely increasing town and its suburbs.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### THE LATE BURGLARIES

The authors of the late robberies still remain undetected, although a close inquiry has been instituted by the police. At the request of many of the inhabitants, the Alderman convened a meeting of the Corporation which was held in the Council Chamber on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., when the subject was fully discussed, and the opinion expressed, that looking at the increase of our town and its suburbs, the police force permanently stationed at Wokingham is insufficient to efficiently protect and patrol so large an area, and the Alderman was requested to communicate with the Chief Constable of the County this view, and express the feelings of uneasiness which prevail, with the hope that he may be able to increase the police force; so as to remove cause for further alarm. It will be well if householders will carefully inspect the fastenings of their premises, especially at the rear, and also aid the police in the suppression of vagrancy by refusing to relieve tramps who merely make calls in the day time to enable them to more easily carry out their depredations at night.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### THE BANK HOLIDAY

Last Monday was more generally observed as a holiday in this town than on any previous occasion. The persistent downfall of rain during the greater part of the day,

however, sadly marred the enjoyment of the pleasure-seekers. Mander's excellent menagerie was liberally patronised.

#### THE LATE BURGLARIES

It is some satisfaction to know that the perpetrator of these outrages has been traced, and still more so to know that he is now in safe custody.

In last week's Mercury we gave an account of the capture of a ruffian named Thomas Williams who fired several times at the night-watchman at Wycombe Abbey on the previous Sunday morning

On his person was found a purse, which had been identified by Mr. Weight's servants as stolen from that gentleman's house when it was broken into about a month ago, and a small tortoise shell-handled knife, also found on him, has been identified as having been stolen at the same time. The instrument he had in his possession evidently for forcing open windows has been found to correspond exactly with the marks left on the premises he visited here. Williams was a tailor, and there is no doubt that whilst working here a short time ago he made himself acquainted with the premises he subsequently visited.

#### MILITARY MOVEMENTS

A number of troops have passed through the town this week on their way to attend the manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain. On Tuesday a detachment of the Army Service Corps was billeted here for the night followed on Wednesday by the Headquarters of the 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers with their band, and on Thursday by a detachment of the 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### THE SEWAGE QUESTION

This important subject has again come before the ratepayers in consequence of the passing of "The Public Health Act, 1872," which has transferred the power from one Authority to another. In order to explain matters, it is necessary to refer to what has been done since we published the Report of Mr. Harrison, the Government Inspector, in which he strongly condemned the want of drainage, and also the quality of the water.

Shortly after that report was made public, the ratepayers within the Special Drainage District elected a committee of nine members, under the provisions of the Sewage Utilization Act. The Committee directly set to work, and inspected the town and suburbs, and caused the removal of nuisances which were found to exist, and also framed a set of bye-laws to be set in force in the district, ordering the removal of all refuse, with stringent clauses, giving powers to the Inspector and Justices summarily to convict any one guilty of a breach of these rules. These bye-laws they submitted to the Local Government Board for confirmation. The Committee also obtained from Messrs. Ripley and Simmonds a very complete and, as they believe, effective plan for the thorough drainage of the town and disposal of the sewage, including a supply of water for flushing purposes.

After many meetings and careful attention to the subject, the Committee has been superseded by the provisions of the new act, which transforms us into a Rural Sanitary District, and places us under the control of the Board of Guardians to whom have been delivered all the plans of estimates and papers obtained. It being the opinion of many that the sanitary government of the town can scarcely be adequately attended to by the Guardians, a meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. To consider

the matter, when some were anxious to form the District into a Local Government Board, but as the subject requires much consideration, and will probably have an important influence on the future well-being of the town, it was decided to adjourn the meeting for a fortnight, and it will be well for the ratepayers, in the meantime, to ponder well the matter before Thursday next.

## 1873

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> January

The marriage of Lord Arthur Hill on Thursday at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, second son and late brother of the present Marquis of Downshire with Annie Lysander Mary, only daughter of Lieut. Col. And Mrs Cookes.

The report notices the improvements effected in paving and channelling during the past year, and concludes by congratulating the town on favourable return as to its exceptional freedom from zymotic disease.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March

### THE QUEEN'S HOUNDS

On Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup> ult., His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales hunted with the Royal Staghounds for the first time since his late illness. The meet was at the Warren House, Wokingham, and at 12 o'clock, His Royal Highness, accompanied by Colonel Ellis, arrived in a char-a-banc and four horses from Windsor. He was met by the noble Master of the Buckhounds, the Earl of Cork, and an immense assemblage of horsemen and pedestrians.

The Price, who looked remarkably well, having mounted his hunter, the deer, "Little Lady" was uncarted, but after an indifferent run through Tipping's Wood by Bill Hill to Hurst, and down near the Loddon she was left, and "The Quaker" was turned out near the "Shoulder of Mutton" at Binfield. He led the field a good run by Pockets Copse, Bean Oak, and Waterloo into Wokingham, where he ran into Messrs. Lush's Coach Factory, and was safely secured.

The Prince of Wales and Lord Cork left the field near Buckhurst in time to catch the five o'clock train at Bracknell, and returned to town.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> April

On Wednesday, in the Easter week, the Alderman and Corporation attended service at All Saints' Church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev.-Bird, the curate. They afterwards met at the Council Chamber and transacted the ordinary business, viz., the election of an Alderman and Chief Magistrate for the ensuing year. The unanimous choice of the Council fell on Mr. John Heelas, jun., who was thereupon sworn into office. A cordial vote of thanks was carried to the retiring Alderman, Mr. J.L. Roberts, for the efficient performance of his duties during the past year.

On Easter Monday, the usual election of Church Wardens took place, when Messrs William Goodchild, Thomas May, and Elliott Morres were re-elected for All Saints' Parish, and Messrs. T. Cooke and J. Skerritt for St. Paul's. The annual parochial dinner afterwards took place at the Bush Hotel, when about thirty sat down to an excellent repast, and spent a very agreeable afternoon. The new Rector of All Saints' was present, and was heartily welcomed. The day was kept as a holiday in the town,

and, being beautifully fine, the numerous pleasure-seekers thoroughly enjoyed their Bank Holiday.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We lately stated that a petition very numerously signed by the ratepayers had been sent to the Local Government Board, asking for the formation of a district, comprising the town and its suburb to be called "The District of Wokingham," under the Local Government Act, instead of continuing merely a portion of a Rural Sanitary District under the management of the Board of Guardians, it being naturally felt that such an important work as the drainage of the town would be more efficiently managed by a Local Board chosen from the inhabitants of the district.

The Board have accordingly given notice that their inspector (J.T. Harrison, Esq., C.E.) will attend at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> April, to receive the evidence of any persons interested in the inquiry.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June

#### ST. PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

On Whit Sunday the new south aisle of St. Paul's Church was opened. The Church was consecrated in 1864, having been built, as is well known, at the sole expense of Mr. Walter MP. Towards this new aisle the parishioners have contributed £250, and the rest of the expense, which has been large, has been borne by the patron, with his accustomed liberality. By this enlargement further accommodation for 98 adults, and about 40 children have been provided. It is a token of the good feeling which prevails in this parish that the appropriated sittings in front of the pulpit were given up in order that all that part of the church might be free. The holders of those sittings accepted others allotted to them in the new aisle. We understand that Mr. Walter does not consider the church yet finished. The aisle on the north side is at once to be commenced, and it is hoped that the close of the year will see the Church completed and inferior to none in the neighbourhood in beauty and accommodation. The work has been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Deacon, from plans prepared by Mr. Woodyer.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

On Thursday afternoon last an important vestry meeting of the Parish of Wokingham was held, to determine whether or not the Local Government Act should be adopted within the entire parish. The Local Government Board require the decision of this question before they will entertain any application to allow the Act to be adopted within a smaller district, comprising the town and its suburbs as desired by many of its inhabitants. There were about fifty ratepayers present, and the Rev. Edward Sturges was unanimously chosen chairman. The requisition of the ratepayers to the churchwardens, and the notice by the latter convening the meeting having been produced and read, Mr. J.L. Roberts, at the request of the chairman, briefly explained the present position of the question and stated what had transpired since the last vestry meeting. He also read a correspondence with the Local Government Board, which had resulted in the calling of the present meeting. The chairman then explained that in compliance with the conditions of the Act it became his duty to propose to the meeting "That the Local Government Act be adopted within the Town and Parish of Wokingham," and then invited an expression of opinion from all those present. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Wheeler, the Rev. J T Brown, r Dunning, Mr T May, Mr S Sale, Mr E Morres, Mr E Lane, Mr H Lane, and others.

Great diversity of opinion seemed to prevail as to the effect in a pecuniary view of the adoption of the Act by the whole parish, instead of a more restricted area. An amendment was put and lost for the adjournment of the meeting, when the chairman put the original resolution for the adoption of the Act in the entire parish, when there appeared 21 in favour of it, and six against it, whereupon the chairman declared the resolution carried. Mr. Henry Lane having demanded a poll it was resolved to take the votes in the manner prescribed by the Act, that is, by means of voting papers, and it was stated the votes would be declared on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> inst.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed one of the best conducted vestry meetings on this much vexed question.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Another step is about to be taken, although apparently of a retrograde nature. We mentioned a fortnight ago that after the vote of the vestry in favour of the adoption of the Act, by a large majority, for the entire parish, a memorial was presented to the Local Government Board praying for the exclusion of certain parts of the parish from the operation of the Act. This memorial having been supported by local influence of much weight, the Board resolved to hold an inquiry as to the propriety of the proposed alteration, and accordingly have arranged that Major Ponsonby Cox R.E., one of the inspectors of the Board, shall attend for the purpose at the Town Hall, on Tuesday afternoon, the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, to hear the evidence of the persons interested in the matter, so that if the Board, on their Inspector's report, should think fit not to confirm the vote of the parish, all that has already been done will be negatory, and we shall have to commence again *de novo*, to endeavour to adopt the Act within a more restricted area.

#### MILITARY MOVEMENTS

During the past week the town has been enlivened by visits fro detachments of the Royal Engineers and the Army Service Corps, en route to winter quarters at Aldershot after taking part in the Autumn Manoeuvres. It was noticed that the long journey and the rough weather they have experienced had told unfavourably on the Appearance of the horses since they passed through on their way to Cannock Chase.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### UNWHOLESOME COTTAGES

A summons respecting the dilapidated and unwholesome condition of fourteen cottages in Rose Street called Chubbs Row was, upon application of Supt. Millard, the Inspector of Nuisances, adjourned for a fortnight to give the owners time to complete the work v necessary to be done to make them safe and inhabitable.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### WOKINGHAM BRITISH SCHOOL

The 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Wokingham British School was celebrated in the Town Hall

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Nov

#### THE ARMY SCRIPTURE READERS AND SOLDIERS FRIEND SOCIETY

On Monday evening an address was delivered in the Town Hall, by Colonel Sandwith, a member of the committee, and an earnest supporter of the Society, and on

Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the same place, presided over by Captain Cobham, at which most interesting details were given of the good work undertaken by the Society's Agents amongst our soldiers in all parts in promoting their spiritual improvement.

Very encouraging reports were given of their successful endeavours to enlist the attention of our soldiers to the great truths so earnestly inculcated through the agents of the Society, both in the camp at home and in foreign stations.

#### THE PROPOSED DRAINAGE OF THE TOWN GOVERNMENT INQUIRY

On Thursday an enquiry as to the desirability of excluding certain outlying parts of the parish of Wokingham from the district proposed to be formed under the Local Government Act, was held at the Town Hall, before Major Cox, Inspector appointed by the Local Government Board. Amongst those present were the Rev. J. Brown, the Rev. E. Sturges, John Walter Esq., M.P., Messrs. W. Goodchild, W.W. Wheeler, W. Lane, sen., Dunning, Heelas, Frankum, Cook, Brown, Baker, Carrington &c.

The inspector said he attended there for the purpose of conducting an enquiry with reference to a Petition presented to the Local Government Board, by ratepayers residing in a part of the parish of Wokingham, situated beyond the boundary of the town, asking that they may be excluded from the operation of the Act. He had no doubt that most of those present were familiar with what had taken place in the town on this matter.

It appeared that in 1864, a petition was presented to the Secretary of State to settle the boundaries of the district for the adoption of the Local Government Act. That petition was acted upon and finally settled as shown upon the plan produced. A meeting was afterwards held, to take the sense of the ratepayers as to whether they would adopt the Act or not, and they refused to adopt it. Then the matter appeared to have remained in abeyance for some years, and after the passing of the Public Health Act, 1872, a disposition was evinced by the ratepayers to avail themselves of the powers of the Act. Some little doubt was expressed in a letter in reply to the position to the Local Government Board as to whether or not the order made in 1864 or 1865 was then in force, and whether that doubt was finally cleared up, he did not know. He believed that if it was found that it would be necessary to settle the district again, and in the meantime it was observed that inasmuch as the district as settled by the Secretary of State in 1865 was included in the parish of Wokingham, it was not competent for a small district to declare for the adoption of the Act until the larger district had refused to adopt it. The sense of the ratepayers in the larger district was then taken—this was on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1873, and there was a majority of 227 in favour of adopting the Act. The numbers were—for the adoption of the Act, 516, against it 289. A resolution in favour of the adoption of the Act was declared to have been carried. Having got so far, a petition was presented to the Local Government Board, duly signed and enclosing a map showing the area and praying that that area should be excluded from the operation of the Act. It was at this stage of the proceedings that they had arrived that day. He would be glad to hear a statement by any gentleman present.

A discussion then followed. Most present, mainly the owners of land outside Wokingham were against people living outside the town having to contribute to the drainage of the town.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Nov

## POST OFFICE

This week some alterations have been made in our postal service, which will be found of much importance to the public. The dispatch of the midnight mail has been discontinued, and in lieu thereof letters of London are dispatched at 10.15 a.m., and another mail to London and all parts is made up at 1.30 p.m. An inward mail is delivered in the town at 6.40 in the evening, which will be found a great convenience, although it would have been much more so if it could have been arranged one hour earlier, so as to enable persons to send a reply by the ordinary evening mail, which will close at the absurdly early hour of 7.17 p.m. The other mails remain unaltered.

## FAIR

Our annual November pleasure fair was held on Monday and Tuesday last, when we had the usual motley collection of shows and stalls; the chief attraction for the youngsters evidently being the steam roundabouts, which had the lion's share of patronage. Fortunately the weather was beautifully fine overhead, although the mud from the previous rains made a visit to the fair anything but agreeable, and it certainly was a relief on Wednesday to see the streets and Market Place clear of the itinerant class who contrive to make a living by attending fairs.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

## BROADMOOR ESCAPES

The Marquis of Downshire has written to the *Times* calling the attention of the Government to the alarming fact that within the last six months three of the most dangerous of the criminal lunatics have made their escape from Broadmoor Asylum only one of which has been recaptured. His lordship points out the danger which residents in the neighbourhood of the asylum incur and the alarm naturally felt lest one of these ruffians should encounter any of the inhabitants and calls on the authorities to take effective steps to prevent the recurrence of such escapes. The subject has been the cause of much anxiety to residents in the neighbourhood.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Dec

## LONGEVITY

A singular coincidence occurred last week in the deaths of three old ladies in Rose Street who resided within one hundred yards of each other. They were aged respectively 77, 78 and 79; a satisfactory testimony to the healthy state of the town.

# 1874

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jan

The death of Lady Arthur Hill at the Marquis of Downshire's mansion in Belgrave Square on Friday. She was the daughter of Col. Cooke.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

Marquis of Downshire is seriously ill.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March

## RECORDER OF WOKINGHAM

The Recorder of Wokingham, George Russell Esq. Who for the past eight years has ably filled the office of Judge of the Derbyshire County Court Circuit has been translated to the Kent Circuit, in the room of W.C. Scott Esq., deceased. The high estimation in which Mr. Russell is deservedly held by the profession was shewn on the occasion of his last Court held at Derby.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April

#### DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE

With great regret we have to announce the death, on Tuesday night, at his seat, Easthampstead Park, of the fifth Marquis of Downshire. He had long been in declining health, but he was only 29 years of age, and it was hoped almost to the end of last year that he might regain strength. The deceased Arthur Wills Blundell Trumbull Sandys Hill, Marquis of Downshire, Earl of Hillsborough, Viscount Hillsborough and Kilwarlin, and Beron Hill of Kilwarlin, county Down, in the peerage of Ireland, also Earl of Hillsborough, Viscount Fairford, county Gloucester, and Lord Harwich, Baron of Harwich, Essex, in that of Great Britain, Hereditary Constable of Hillsborough Fort, was born December 24, 1844, and succeeded to the marquisate on the death of his father, August 6, 1868.

The late lord entered the army as cornet and sub-lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards in 1866, and retired from the regiment in 1868. The late marquis married on July 26, 1870, Georgiana Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. J Balfour of Balbirnie, county Fife, by his wife Lady Georgiana, daughter of the Earl of Cawdor. He is succeeded in the marquisate and honours by his son, born in July 1871.

The *Post* says the death of Lord Downshire was hastened, it is feared, by the shock sustained on hearing that the fall of his horse, Harlequin, had caused the injuries which proved fatal to Lord Rosemore. All knowledge of the sad occurrence was kept from the noble marquis as long as possible, as it was naturally feared that the shock would prove serious to him in his weakened condition.

#### THE GOOD TEMPLARS

On Tuesday evening a Good Templar entertainment was given in the Town Hall, when the society engaged the assistance of Mr. W. Dunn and Miss Lizzie Dunn. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental pieces interspersed with anecdotes suitable to the Templar cause, entitled "Happy moments, or a night in Sober-land." The audience appeared much pleased with the entertainment.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At length the Local Government Board have announced their decision on the memorial addressed to them by a portion of the ratepayers, praying that the outlying parts of the parish of Wokingham might be excluded from the district proposed to be constituted under the Local Government Act. By an order issued by the Board they assent to such request, and order that the district shall be limited to the boundaries set out under the Sewage Utilization Act—that is the town and its suburbs. The order further states that the Act shall come into force within the said district on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, and appoints Mr. Edward Frankum to be the summoning Officer to take the necessary steps for conducting the next election of a Local Board for the new district.

It will thus be seen that this long-protracted business is now decided, and the future management of the local affairs of the town will vest in the board now to be elected.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In pursuance of the order of the Local Government Board the summoning officer has convened a meeting of the ratepayers within the district for Thursday next, at three o'clock, at the Town Hall, to determine the number of members the Board shall consist of. The election of those members will have to be carried out afterwards, but it is necessary first of all for the Vestry to fix the number, As the Board's order is silent on the point.

## FAIR

The *Gazette* of last Tuesday contains the official notice from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, that a representation having been made to him that the annual November Fair held at Wokingham, might be abolished with advantage to the public, he will, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May next take the same into consideration, and that all persons are to intimate to him before that day any objection they may desire to offer to the abolition of the Fair. If no sufficient cause be shown in the meantime, we apprehend that at the above date the secretary will issue his order abolishing the Fair for ever.

## EARLY CLOSING

On Wednesday afternoon last the tradesmen of Wokingham resumed the excellent practice they have adopted the last few years of closing earlier every Wednesday during the summer months. This year they close at four o'clock, and we are glad to observe the movement very generally followed in our business establishments. The boon is much appreciated by those who receive the benefit, and, as the public are aware of the custom, but little inconvenience can result.

## FIRE

About half past eight in the evening of Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, part of a stack of hay near Sandhurst Rectory, property of the Rev. Henry Parsons, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm being given, a number of willing hands were soon on the spot, who succeeded in preventing the fire extending to the adjoining ricks, one of which was within six feet of the burning stack. It is feared the fire was the act of an incendiary, as it is difficult to find any reasonable accidental cause. The quantity of hay consumed was about five tons, and we are happy to hear Mr. Parsons is insured.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June

## THE ABOLITION OF THE WOKINGHAM FAIR

The Home Secretary has announced his decision in this matter. On Tuesday last official notice appeared in this London Gazette (declaring the abolition of this Fair in future). A communication to this effect has already been received by the Town Hall.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1874

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ALL SAINTS' SCHOOLS

The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of All Saints' Church Schools, Wokingham, took place on Thursday. The new buildings are being erected by Mr. Maynard, builder, from plans by Mr. Joseph [Merrle?], architect, Reading. The

schools will be capable of accommodating 400 boys, girls, and infants. The total cost, including a teacher's residence, is estimated at £2,000. Of this, £1,300 must be raised by voluntary contributions, and the rest will be obtained under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, by the sale of property belonging to a local endowment for educational purposes, known as "Martha Palmer's Charity." Contributions amounting to about £830 have already been promised. The site of the new schools is on land situated between All Saints' Church and the new parsonage house. On Thursday afternoon a large number of people assembled to witness the ceremony of laying the stone. Amongst others we noticed the Rector (the Rev. E. Sturges), John Walter, Esq., Mrs. Walter, Miss Walter, Capt. Morres, R.N., Rev. A.P. Purey-Cust, Rural Dean, Rev. Sir John Hayes, Bart., Rev J.T. Brown, Rev. E. Morres, Rev. H. S.N. Lenny, Rev. H. Parsons, Rev. E.C. Cope, Rev. A. Roberts, Rev. A. Bonney, Miss Morres, Mrs. Redmond Morres, Rev. G. de Vitré, Mrs. Tucker, Rev. H.G. Bird, J.L. Leveson-Gower, Esq., Alderman Goodchild, Mr. H. Lane, Mr. H. May, &c. The children of the school walked in procession to the building, and the clergy and surpliced choir occupied a platform near to where the stone was laid. The ceremony commenced by the children alone singing the hymn "Gracious Saviour, gentle Shepherd."

The prayers appointed for the service were then read by the Rector.

At the conclusion of the prayers the stone was lowered, and Mrs. Walter, after spreading the mortar, and gently hammering the stone with a mallet said,--In the faith of Jesus Christ we place this foundation stone, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen.

A hymn was then sung followed by speeches.

## 1875

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Jan

### THE SANITARY CONDITION OF WOKINGHAM

At the last meeting of the members of the local board, after the transmission of the usual business, the medical officer, Dr. Shea, presented his annual report, which he had prepared for the Local Government Board, and the reading of which created much interest. It commenced by stating that as the Board had only been in existence about six months, time had been wanting to initiate large and important measures, still some very useful preliminary work had been accomplished. It was very satisfactory to find from the statistics that in the last nine months of the year there were only 33 deaths in the district, which gave the very low average of 14.6 per thousand. There was not a single case of death from contagious or infectious disease, and of the 33 deaths no less than seven were of persons over 80 years of age.

The report then noticed the very satisfactory work that had been done as to the removal of nuisance, and referred to on the state of the slaughter-house &c., and the absence of noxious trades, but pointed out there were many cottages still requiring improvement. Dr. Shea then made some valuable suggestions as to the future drainage and water supply, and gave the particulars of the analysis of several samples of well water from the different parts of the town, observing, that from the sandy nature of the subsoil the water is peculiarly liable to contamination from proximity to drains, cesspools, &c., and that as the height of the water in the wells rises and falls considerably at various seasons of the year, so the quality of the water in the same well may vary at different times, but the supply being derived from only a moderated depth, it behoved the inhabitants to be very vigilant that all chances of pollution be

carefully avoided and quickly removed. The report concluded with much valuable information as to the drainage and water supply of the district.

#### HIGHWAY BOARD

On Wednesday last there was a very full attendance at the Board Meeting in the Town Hall on the occasion of the election of the Surveyor to the Board. All the Waywardens attended and nearly all the ex-officio members. John Walter Esq., chairman presided and read the list of applicants for the office, fifteen in number, and the very numerous testimonials of the several candidates.

At the final decision the choice fell on Mr. Thomas May of Wokingham (who filled very satisfactorily the post of surveyor to the Windsor Forest Turnpike Trust for fifteen years) by the narrow margin of one vote. The extent of roads within the district is about 100 miles and the surveyor's salary is fixed at £100 a year.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### ENTERTAINMENT

The second of a series of popular entertainment in aid of the Working Men's Club and British Workmen took place in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Sir Lumley Graham, Bart. in the chair.

The principal performers were Mr and Mrs Rippon and Mr. Cole whose instrumental pieces were much admired; Mrs. Truman; the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre; Mr. Sale, and the Old Church Choir. The four-part song "The Forester" by the choir was very creditably given and in response to a hearty encore they repeated the last verse.

Mr. Sale's reading from "Mrs. Brown" was productive of much amusement. The entertainment closed with the National Anthem.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### SUPPER TO WORKMEN

Messrs. Heelas & Sons and Co. who have lately made extensive additions to their business premises, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, invited the whole of the workmen employed on the new buildings to a capital supper laid out in the new premises. Between 50 and 60 sat down, including the firm and assistants, who did their utmost to make their guests comfortable and happy.

The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Brant and the vice by Mr. J. Heelas jun. After supper, the Chairman proposed the health of Mr J. Heelas sen., late the head of the firm, and the toast was received with handsome applause. Mr. J. Heelas jun. Acknowledged the toast on behalf of his father, who was unable to be present. He concluded by proposing the health of the architect, Mr. Charles Smith of reading, and the builder, Mr. Pither of Sunningdale. Other toasts and songs followed.

1876

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### LOCAL BOARD

At the last monthly meeting of the Board, after transaction of the usual routine business, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Shea) presented his annual report, which was read and considered and as its contents are of material interest to the inhabitants it was ordered that it be printed for distribution. We are glad to find that its tenor is very favourable and that the death rate being only 16 in the thousand, contrasts far with other localities, whilst the great age of many whose deaths are recorded s the best evidence that the proverbial healthiness of Wokingham is a fact not to be controverted.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Mr. Garth's hounds met as usual on Easter Monday at Luckley. A very fair day's sport was enjoyed.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May

#### EXPLOSIVES ACT 1875

By virtue of this statute, the Justice in Petty Sessions have appointed Supt. Millard, for the Wokingham Division, Inspector of Premises, where fireworks of other explosives are made or kept.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### SIGNIFICANT OF THE TIMES

At the meeting of the Guardians of Wokingham Union, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. The master of the house reported there were no able-bodied inmates—a circumstance which has never been known before; and obtained permission to engage paid labour to perform the necessary domestic duties of the establishment.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept

#### FIRE

On Thursday, about 2 pm, much alarm was caused by the news that a fire had broken out at Pike's Farm, in the occupation of Captain J E Leveson-Gower, and numbers of the inhabitants hastened to the scene to render assistance. It was found that a large wheat rick standing in the stock-yard and in close contiguity to the farm buildings, was in flames and burning fiercely. Many of those residing near set to work to endeavour to keep the surrounding stacks from igniting until the arrival of the engines, and in this they succeeded.

The Wokingham engine was soon on the spot and at work, under Supt. Millard and his assistants, and was found to be in excellent working order. The Twyford engine, with their Fire Brigade, under Mr. L Davis, arrived shortly afterwards, and, there being a good supply of water, the flames were almost entirely confined to the rick in which the fire originated, although the adjoining stacks caught fire several times. The fire burnt all night, but was kept within bounds by the unremitting exertions of willing helpers. The cause of the outbreak is believed to have been a spark from a locomotive engine (which had arrived for the purpose of thrashing) falling on the thatch of the rick. Fortunately, the wind was calm. Capt. Leveson-Gower, we hear, is insured in the "Phoenix" Office.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

(From an advertisement on another page).

At a meeting held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup> September (Capt. Gower in the chair), it was decided to form a volunteer fire brigade for the

Town and surrounding neighbourhood, towards which the inhabitants and others are invited to subscribe.

Subscriptions may be paid to Messrs. Simonds, Bankers, Reading and Wokingham, or to the Secretary, Mr. Edmund W. Roberts, Wokingham.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### INQUIRY INTO THE CONDITION OF THE CORPORATION OF WOKINGHAM

In an advertisement which appears in another column, notice is given by the Commissioners appointed by her Majesty to inquire into the existing condition of unreformed corporations, to the effect that all persons having any information respecting the Corporation of Oakingham (now called Wokingham) which they desire to communicate to the Commission, are requested to write to the Secretary, at 2, Victoria-street, Westminster, on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### THE CORPORATION

The Commission for enquiring into these Corporations which are not subject to the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act held a meeting at their offices, 2, Victoria-street, Westminster, on Tuesday last, Sir John Karelake in the chair, when evidence was taken relative to the Corporation of Wokingham. The Town Clerk, Mr. Edward Frankum, was examined at considerable length, and gave every information required as to the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Corporation and their officials. He also produced the charters, sessions' records, minutes, and accounts, all of which were duly examined.

#### BALL

A ball, under distinguished patronage, will take place at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday evening next.

#### WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

The first of the entertainments which are usually held during the winter took place at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, C.T. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, in the chair, when, through the kindness of some of the clergy and ladies in the town a very pleasant evening was passed. These entertainments have been held for a few years past, and have been found useful in giving healthful amusement to the townspeople. The profits are divided between the Working Men's and British Workmen Clubs,

1877

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March

Marriage of Lord Arthur Hill and Miss Fortesque Harrison on Wednesday at St. Stephen's, South Kensington.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> May

#### INTERESTING DISCOVERY

Last week while a decayed post, which for many years, had formed part of an old out-house, on the premises of Mrs. Ludlow, Rose Street, was being broken up, eighteen gold coins of the reign of Richard II, in an excellent state of preservation were discovered, carefully wrapped in coarse canvas, and concealed in a deep mortise.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June

#### FIRE BRIGADE

The members of the recently formed Wokingham Fire Brigade had a public drill in the Market-place on Wednesday evening inst.

1878

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

On Thursday last the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade met in the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory (by permission of the Rev. J.T. Brown) to test their new manual fire engine recently ordered of Messrs. Merryweather. The engine was purchased at a cost of £170 including some hose, ladders &c. It is a very powerful one being capable of throwing 136 gallons of water a minute to a height of 130 feet. It is fitted with a pair of 7-inch pumps, worked by thirty men and it will carry effectually through a thousand feet of hose if required. The experiments that were witnessed by a large number of persons were highly satisfactory.

The Wokingham Voluntary Rifles kept the ground and the band of the corps played a selection of music at intervals.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June 1878

#### PROPOSED WATERWORKS FOR WOKINGHAM

A meeting was held on Tuesday last at the Town Hall, Wokingham, to consider the proposed scheme of the Wokingham District Water (Company) Limited, for a supply of pure water to the town. Alderman J.L. Roberts presided, and there were also present the Rev. J.T. Brown, the Rev. G de Vitre, Mr. Barford, Mr. W.L. Beale, Mr. T. Cooke, Mr. William Goodchild, Mr. Weeks, Mr. T.M. Wescott, Mr. R.R. Briginshaw, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Watts, Mr. Frankum, and others.

A letter was read from the Rector (the Rev. E Sturges) regretting his unavoidable absence, and other influential residents were prevented attending.

The Chairman having introduced the subject in a few appropriate remarks requested Mr. J.W. Grover CE, the engineer of the company to explain the nature of the scheme.

Mr. Grover stated that the Company had been duly registered and had obtained the provisional order of the Board of Trade. The sanction of Parliament to the order was now being obtained. The town was at present without any water supply, and not only suffered from the extreme bad quality of the surface water supply, but often had an insufficient quantity even of this. The proposal was to sink a well to the chalk water-bearing strata, from which an abundant supply of good water would be obtained. He estimated the depth of the chalk from the surface in the low ground near the town at about 350 feet and it would be necessary to sink perhaps 30 feet further into the chalk when reached. The sinking and pumping station would be in a field acquired by the Company near the Pin and Bowl Inn, on the Finchampstead road and the reservoir would be constructed in a field purchased by the Company of Mr. C.T. Murdoch at Windmill Hill, Binfield. The reservoir would serve the whole district, which includes Wokingham, Binfield, Warfield, Easthampstead, Finchampstead and Sandhurst. The calculation of the depth of boring, he said, was made from data afforded by the sinking at Bearwood and Wellington College and Mr. Grover read a letter upon the subject from Mr. Whitaker, of the Geological Survey which reported his calculations.

The cost of the works, including the main piping for Wokingham, he estimated would be £12,000. Mr. Grover then contrasted the cost of the water supply of many towns of varying size with the cost of the proposed supply for Wokingham, especially mentioning Chichester and Newbury, in which the works had lately been opened. The cost of the waterworks per head of the population at Chichester was £1 13s 6d; in Swindon, £3 10s, and in other towns an average of £2 10s per head, while the proposed Company's Works for Wokingham would only cost about £1 10s per head on the population of the district.

Having referred to the importance of obtaining a supply of water from the chalk, Mr. Grover said a well managed Company could expect an income of from 4s to 5s per head, or about £1 2s 6d per house, either of which tests would represent in this district £10 per cent, on the whole capital after a fair allowance for working expenses. The maximum charge for supply was fixed by the Company's provisional order at a rate of about 1s 6d in the pound on the annual rack rent or value of premises supplied and he thought the Company deserved the support of the town in its endeavour to supply a great and pressing public need.

Mr. F.L. Soames, solicitor, explained that the Company was limited, having a capital of £20,000 in 2,000 shares of £10 each, the whole of which need not of course be called up.

Mr. Grover having replied to questions asked by the meeting as to the cost of the piping and sinking.

Mr. W.L. Beale proposed—"That this meeting having heard an explanation of the objects of the Wokingham District Water Company, expresses its approval of the scheme, and its confidence in the benefit to the town and district.

Mr. Goodchild in seconding the resolution alluded to the value of the supply in case of fire as well as from the sanitary and public utility points of view.

The resolution was carried unanimously, many of those present expressing a desire to take shares.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June

#### WOKINGHAM DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

In another column of today's mercury is advertised the prospectus of this newly-formed Company, the capital of which of £20,000, in 2,000 shares of £10 each. The order of the Board of Trade, which has been confirmed by Parliament, and received the Royal assent on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., empowers the company to establish waterworks for the supply of the district comprising the town and parish of Wokingham, and the parishes of Binfield, Warfield, Easthampstead and Sandhurst. The well and pumping station will be placed on a site near the Finchampstead road, between the brook and the SE Railway, and the reservoir on Windmill Hill.

The engineer (Mr. JW Grover), and Mr. Whitaker, one of the geologists of the Geological Survey, are of opinion that an ample supply of pure chalk water will be obtained at a depth of about 400 feet; it will be pumped up to the reservoir, which is at an elevation sufficient to supply nearly the whole district, the population of which is estimated at a total of over 13,000 persons, occupying nearly 2,400 houses. Mr. Landsdowne-Beale is one of the Directors of the Company to which Mr. James Watts is the secretary.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

#### ALTERATION TO POST OFFICE REGULATIONS

The despatch of letters at 1.30 has been abolished and in lieu thereof a letter bag is made up at 3 pm for London and all parts (Reading Excepted). Letters for Sandhurst and Wellington College should be posted before 9.30 pm.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### AMATEUR BAND

On Christmas Eve the Amateur Band went around the town playing the well-known Christmas hymns and carols. The music sounded very sweet in the still frosty night air and harmonised with the thoughts of persons at this happy season. In the ordinary case bands of music follow up their performances by ringing bells of different houses and making a request for money but the members of the Wokingham Band gladly gave their services in order to usher in the festival amongst the townspeople in a suitable manner. They were led by Mr. Breacher who set the tunes expressly for the various instruments.

## 1879

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

#### ENTERTAINMENT ON THE ICE

On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ult., Mr. Goodchild, the ex-Alderman invited his fellow townspeople to spend an evening on the ice on the ornamental water on his property at Waterloo. The large space was well lighted by burning tar barrels, Chinese lanterns and torches. Between 300 and 400 people assembled and all appeared to heartily enjoy themselves. Messrs. L and T Carroll, Messrs. H and H Roberts and others formed themselves into a glee party and sang some part-songs and glees.

The handbell ringers were also in attendance, and much enlivened the proceedings. A large fire was kept burning on the centre island from whence a display of fireworks took place. Mr. W. Chambers supplied the refreshments.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### THE HEALTH OF WOKINGHAM

The annual report of Dr. Shea, the Medical Officer of Health, which has just been presented to the Local Board, deserves a careful perusal. We glean from the report that in the year 1878 there were 98 births in the district, and 60 deaths. Of the births 48 were males, and 50 females; of the deaths, 29 were males, and 31 females. Out of the 60 deaths, 17 took place in the Union Workhouse, and of these 12 belonged to the rural district, leaving 58 to be credited to the town, giving a death-rate of 18.7 per 1,000. This an increase on the rate for 1877, which was abnormally low. The year 1878 was, however, characterised by a high death-rate throughout this country. The report contains many details as to ages and the various causes of death. A statement is also shown of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances, from which it will be seen that 110 cases of nuisance have been remedied, and that much has been accomplished in improving the sanitary states of spots which have long been deemed sources of danger to health. The report notices the improvements effected in paving and channelling during the past year, and concludes by congratulating the town on the favourable return as to its exceptional freedom from symotic disease.

#### ENTERTAINMENT



An advertisement announces that an entertainment will be given by Mr. Frank Attwells, in the Town Hall, next Thursday evening. The entertainment will include a short lecture upon the Paris Exhibition, illustrated by dioramic dissolving views, exhibited by means of oxy-hydrogen lime light. Selections of vocal and instrumental music will also be given during the evening.

#### WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

There was a crowded audience at the Town Hall on Tuesday, on the occasion of one of the fortnightly entertainments. The performers were Miss Carroll, Miss Easton, Miss Gates, Misses Mary and Edith Brown, Misses Laura and Florence Walter, Messrs Henderson, Harvey, J.E. Carroll, E.R. Carroll, and Allen, Mr. Elwin, and the Rev. Joseph T. Brown. After the programme was gone through, Mr. Elwin, in addition to the songs which he had given in the most admirable manner, favoured the audience with his wonderful powers as an amateur ventriloquist. The company separated at 10, highly delighted with their evening's entertainment. The chair was well filled by Mr. Murdoch, of Buckhurst.

The Corporation have had two handsome lamps placed over each entrance door. They were lighted for the first time on that night, and proved a great convenience to the public.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> March

#### FIRE

Yesterday at 3 a. m., the town was alarmed by the bugle call of the Fire Brigade, a fire having been discovered in a back room at the Welcome Inn, Peach-street, occupied by Mr. Richard Herring. The brigade was promptly on the spot with their powerful engine, and when a supply of water was obtained soon extinguished the flames. The room in which the fire broke out was destroyed, but the rest of the house was saved. The fire originated through an old beam in the chimney igniting. The property is insured. Had it not been for the prompt exertions of the brigade much damage must have ensued, as the property on fire was situated in a row of houses of very ancient construction.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE ROYAL DISTRICT BICYCLE CLUB

This club had their opening run on Easter Monday.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug

#### GAS AND COKE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the shareholders in this company was held in the Town Hall on Thursday afternoon. Mr. J.L. Roberts was unanimously elected chairman, and, before submitting the report of the directors, congratulated the meeting on the improved position of the company as contrasted with former reports he had laid before them. The Secretary, (Mr. W. Ifould) then read the following report:-

The Directors in submitting the statement of accounts for the half-year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June last, have the satisfaction to report that the business of the Company has been conducted and has progressed entirely to their satisfaction during the said period. The make of gas per ton of coal has been greater and the percentage of loss by waste &c., less than has been previously recorded. The reports of Mr. Baker as to the illuminating power and the purity of the gas supplied have also been quite satisfactory. The ordinary business of the company has been conducted to the entire

satisfaction of the directors. Under these circumstances, and seeing there is a balance of profit amounting to £254 19s 3d, and a sum of £?? 11s 9d due to the company on the 30<sup>th</sup> June last to be collected during the current quarter, the directors feel fully justified in recommending a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 6? per cent, per annum, to be paid to the shareholders on the first day of September next, and that the remaining £?? 19s 3d of the profit be added to the reserve fund. The directors retiring by rotation are Messrs. Wheeler, Goodchild and Frankum, who are eligible and offer themselves for re-election. In consequence of Mr. Wanalow's appointment as accountant to the Company, his retirement from the office of auditor becomes necessary, and another auditor will have to be elected I his place by the shareholders.

This report was unanimously adopted, and Messrs. William W. Wheeler, Edward Frankum and William Goodchild were re-elected directors, and Mr. Roberts was unanimously requested to resume the position of Chairman of Directors, which he has held for so many years filled to the satisfaction, not only of his co-directors, but also of the shareholders.

Mr. Robert Bradley, of Reading, was elected auditor, in the room of Mr. Hanslow, and the meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### LOCAL BOARD

The monthly meeting of this Board was held on the afternoon of Thursday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. The members present were, Mr. Thomas Cooke, chairman; and Messrs. Goodchild, Westcott, Briginshaw, Dalley, Chambers, Watts, Moorcock, Heron, Martin and Evans. A rate of one shilling in the pound was ordered. Mr. G. Evans drew attention to the exceedingly high price of gas in the town, and pointed out that every public lamp in Wokingham cost 13s per annum more than they did at Blackwater; he had also ascertained that at Reading gas was supplied at 3s per 1,000 ft., while at Wokingham the cost for the same quantity was 5s. Mr. W. Goodchild, one of the directors of the Gas Company, said he should like to see the Gas Works placed under the authority of the Local Board. Dr. Shea was appointed gas tester to the Board.

A proposition that the southern side of the Market Place, extending from Goodchild's lane to Mr. Bennett's, should be paved with York stone, was, after some opposition, carried by a majority of 7 to 3.

1880

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> April

#### WOKINGHAM WATER COMPANY

It is satisfactory to be in a position to state that on Wednesday last a stratum of chalk was reached at a depth of 340 feet from the surface, thus placing beyond doubt that an abundant supply of pure water will soon be available. It is a matter of congratulation to the inhabitants of Wokingham and of the large district embraced in the company's scheme, where the water supply has not only been insufficient, but the water of very objectionable quality that henceforth a pure supply from the chalk, in practically unlimited quantities, will be brought to the house of every inhabitant desiring it. It at the same time makes it incumbent on the Local Board of Health to close all deleterious springs both in private and present public supply. Binfield, Barkham, Sandhurst, Bracknell and all the neighbourhood, are embraced in the water company's district. The shareholders may also be congratulated on the success of this enterprise, which in the first instance did not appear very promising, but which now

offers a clear inducement for investment, as water companies generally afford a good return for capital investment.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The Volunteer Fire Brigade under the command of Mr. J. Briginshaw, the captain, underwent a very useful drill in the Market place on Wednesday evening. The new fire-escape was placed against a high window and the members of the brigade went through a course of instruction (practically illustrated) of the means to be employed in the rescue-immediate treatment of insensible persons found on burning premises.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June

#### THE WOKINGHAM WATER SUPPLY

The *Times* gives the following description of the deep well now being sunk for supplying the district with water. In the year 1878 an Act of Parliament was obtained, incorporating a company for the purpose of supplying this district and the neighbourhood with spring water. Acting on the report of Mr. J.W. Grover, the engineer, which showed that the chalk might probably be reached at a depth of about 350 ft., and that water would probably be struck at about 400 ft., the company proceeded about 12 months ago to commence their well, and the results of their operations has been to confirm these anticipations in a very remarkable way, for the chalk has been reached at 345 ft. depth, and a very fine chalk spring has been struck at 405 feet. This satisfactory result was obtained last week, when after passing through about 60 ft. of chalk which was comparatively dry, the water suddenly burst up with great violence through the bore pipe, filling the well shaft to within 30 ft. of the surface, and yielding some 360,000 gallons a day at a depth of 70 ft. from the top.

The water is very pure and clear, as is generally the case with that derived from chalk; but attempts which have hitherto been made in this district to obtain water from the chalk have not generally proved very successful, so that the discovery of such a fine copious spring is a subject for congratulation, as it will enable a large range of country to be provided with one of the first necessities of life. The well consists of a brick shaft 200 ft. deep and 6 ft. diameter, at the bottom of which comes the artesian boring down to the chalk. The formations passed through are the London clays and the reading sands. The water in the chalk is supposed to be derived from the chalk hills to the north of Twyford. It will now be pumped by suitable machinery to a high-level reservoir, situated half way between Wokingham and Bracknell, whence it will be conveyed by pipes to the consumers, who are estimated to amount to over 13,000 persons, occupying some 2,364 houses, and to whom it is proposed to give a constant service. The contractors for the works are Messrs. T.M. Quelch & Co.

A number of curious fossils were discovered in the sinking, the most important of which was the *Nautilus Imperialis* which showed that this district once formed the bed of tropical seas.

#### CRICKET

The Guildford and Wokingham Cricket Clubs met for their first contest on Wednesday on the ground of the latter club. The match terminated in a victory for the Wokingham club by 14 runs in the first innings. The scores were:- Wokingham, first innings, 43, and second innings (with 4 wickets down), 48. Guildford, first innings, 29, and, second innings, 119. For the former club H. Baldwin was the only contributor of double figures, making 18 runs. Neither of the Guildford club scored double

figures. R. Baldwin and Gater shared the bowling in the first innings of the visitors with singular effect. Baldwin sending up eight overs for 19 runs, whilst Gater bowled eight overs for eight runs, taking three wickets.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### THE WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

The periodical entitled "The Fireman" for this month has an article on provincial fire brigades to which, with reference to the Wokingham Fire Brigade. It says:-

"The Volunteer Fire Brigade to Wokingham was established on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1877, by Mr. John W. Briginshaw and some fellow townsmen, under the auspices of the Wokingham Local Board. Before that time the parish engine was in the possession of the police, and the work of attending to it and working it at fires being only a secondary part of their duties. It had for some time been felt that an independent organisation was advisable and even necessary. Accordingly a meeting of the ratepayers was convened, and after some discussion it was resolved to establish the brigade and to request the Local Board to hand over their fire engine an old Merryweather manual, dating from 1840 and appliances to its keeping. This was readily agreed upon by the Board: and the brigade next started a subscription list to provide funds for the purpose of obtaining a new engine and some new hose; they also wished to repair the old engine, to clothe and accoutre the firemen, and to build an engine house.

It is much to the credit of Wokingham that all these objects were accomplished in a remarkably short space of time; in 1879 the brigade had affected its purposes and was out of debt. The engine purchased was a London brigade pattern manual with 7 in pumps, two deliveries, double folding pumping levers, and with all the most modern appliances; the whole being supplied to them by the Long Acre firm. In addition to this the Royal Society for the Protection of Life has repeatedly granted the brigade an escape, and a suitable enclosure has been erected for the same alongside the engine house, beneath the Town Hall, and in the most central part of the town. The brigade is now, therefore, fully equipped and consists of a very reliable body of men.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> September

#### FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION

The members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade competed for prizes at Weybridge on Thursday last. In the six-man drill eight brigades competed, and Wokingham took the fourth place. In the four-man drill, nine brigades competed, Wokingham scored sixth. In ambulance drill, hand pump and foot race, Wokingham took second position in each contest.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

#### MUSICAL SOCIETY

A meeting was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening for the purpose of establishing a musical Society for Wokingham. Mr. Ald. Heelas presided, and was supported by the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mr. C.T. Murdoch, The Rev. J.F. Llewellyn, Mr. H. Roberts, Mr. Watts, the Rev. E.G. Coppleston, Mr. J.W. Briginshaw, Mr. Henderson, Mr. T.S. Brown, Mr. Heron, Mr. Harvey & c.

Mr. Murdoch proposed, and the Rev. J.T. Brown seconded, in able speeches, "That a Musical Society be established in Wokingham during the winter months." The resolution was carried unanimously. A committee was formed, to consist of Mr. T.S. Brown, Mr. Watts, Mr. J.W. Briginshaw, the Rev. E.G. Coppleston, Mr. Henderson,

The Rev. J.F. Llewellyn and Mr. H. Roberts. Mr. Murdoch was chosen president, and the Rev. J.T. Brown vice-president, and Mr. Heron secretary. A full report of the proceedings was prepared, but in consequence of the space occupied by the Berkshire Sessions and other reports, it is unavoidably omitted.

#### THE PHONOGRAPH

On Tuesday evening a lecture on the phonograph was given in the Town Hall. There was a small audience, but the experiments were very successfully made, and afforded much interest to those present.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### WOKINGHAM VOLUNTARY FIRE BRIGADE

The Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade have been invited by the Lord Mayor of the City of London to take part with other Provincial Brigades representing the Wokingham Voluntary Fire brigade in the grand civic procession of the 9<sup>th</sup> proxime.

## 1881

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

The annual ball given by Mr. J. Walter M.P. to his tradespeople which was to have taken place on Tuesday, and the Volunteer Ball, which had been arranged for Wednesday last in the Town Hall have both been postponed in consequence of the snow storm.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE STATE OF THE POOR

A public meeting was convened in the Town Hall at noon on Thursday, by the Alderman, to take into consideration the best means of relieving the stress existing amongst the labouring classes in the town, consequent upon the severe weather lately experienced. A committee composed of the clergy and ministers of all denominations, several of the neighbouring gentry, and some of the principal inhabitants of the town, was formed to solicit subscriptions and distribute, in the most feasible manner, the results amongst the needy and destitute. Subscriptions to a large amount were promised in the room.

#### VOLUNTEER BALL

The annual ball of the L detachment of Berks Rifle Volunteers, which was postponed from the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, on account of the inclement weather, took place in the Town Hall last Thursday evening. The hall was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. W. Chambers, of the Market-place, supplied the refreshments. An efficient band from Reading was engaged, dancing commenced soon after 9 p.m.

#### THE WOKINGHAM INSTITUTE

The annual meeting of the members of this institution took place on Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., Mr. T.S. Brown in the chair. From the report it appeared that the income for the year 1880 (including the balance of £11 10s 4d. on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1879), was £48 15s 1d., and the expenditure for the same period £36 7s. 10d., leaving a present balance of £12 7s 3d. Mr. D.N. Heron, who for several years has filled the post of

hon. Secretary, having resigned, Mr. T.S. Brown was elected to the office, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Heron for his services.

#### BERKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Branch of this society was held in the Church-room in Rose-street, on Tuesday evening—S.A. Hankey, Esq., in the chair. Letters were received from several hon. Members, stating their inability to attend. The committee (with the addition of the Rev. E.G. Copleston) the chairman and the agent, were unanimously elected. Mr. A. Barrett was elected a representative member, in succession to Mr. H Hibbert. The society is in a prosperous condition. Considering the weather there was a good attendance.

#### THE LATE FROST

The frost broke up on Wednesday night. Through the exertions of Mr. E. Lane, surveyor, the streets have been partially cleared of the snow, although in the Market-place and on the sides of the streets snow is still piled many feet high. Some of the residents, taking advantage of the snow, commenced running sleighs. On Monday evening, with the permission of Mr. Goodchild, a pleasant evening was spent on ice at Waterloo. A bonfire was lighted, and the lake was illuminated by a number of naphtha lamps.

Mr. W. Chambers of the Market-place, supplied the refreshments. The Wokingham Brass Band attended, and played a good selection of music, and dancing on the ice, to the strains of the band, went on merrily till past ten.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> March

#### WATER WORKS

The Water Works Company have now their works in full working order, and the task of laying on the water, which is of excellent quality, is being proceeded with. It was been proposed to have some demonstration to celebrate the completion of the undertaking.

#### THE SUNDAY CLOSING MOVEMENT

A public meeting in favour of closing public houses on Sundays was held in the Town Hall on Friday evening. Mr. E. Nicholson of *Oaklands* presided and was supported on the platform by Mr. Whitwell, the deputation; The Rev. J.S. Woodrow, Mr. J. Weeks, Mr. J. Briginshaw, Dr. Noad and others. The meeting was opened with prayer, and the chairman in a short speech introduced Mr. Whitwell, who read the resolution, and in a lengthy speech stated that considerable good had been affected in different parts of the country by the partial closing of public houses on Sundays; landlords themselves were, he said, generally in favour of the movement, as they were saddled with twice as many working hours per week as any other working men. A canvas taken in different populous manufacturing localities was, he stated, wholly in favour of Sunday closing, and he urged the audience to exert their influence on County Members when the Bill came on in the House.

The speech met with frequent opposition and interruption from several parts of the hall. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J.S. Woodrow. A stranger present proposed an amendment that no alteration was required in Wokingham. This was seconded by Mr. H. Kemp, but on being put to the meeting was declared to be lost. The original resolution was carried.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April

THE WOKINGHAM WATER WORKS  
OPENING BY MR. WALTER, M.P.

The works, constructed by the Wokingham District Water Company (Limited), were opened on Tuesday by Mr. Walter M.P., and the proceedings were of a very successful character. The works consist of a well and pumping station near the Finchampstead Road, between the brook and the South Eastern railway, and a reservoir at Buckhurst, on a site high enough to supply water by gravitation to Wokingham and nearly all the surrounding district.

The well is 408 feet deep, 260 feet being a brick and cement shaft, and the remainder a 16-inch artesian boring. It passes through 270 feet of clay, and then through the Woolwich and Reading sands, until the upper chalk is reached, and the boring penetrates this 68 feet. Wokingham is on a great basin in the chalk, and there can be no doubt that a practically unbounded supply of water will be assured from this boring.

The water has been analysed by Dr. Shea (Public Analyst of Reading and Newbury) and found to be soft, although from the chalk, and very free from any other organic matter. The softness of the water's great advantage to housewives – is due to the mixture of the water from the sands immediately above the chalk, which finds its way down to the fissures in the upper chalk, and also to the fact that the water contains a considerable portion of alkaline chlorides.

A 20-horse power engine, by Grover & Co., of Westminster, is erected, and has been pumping regularly for some time, at the rate of 10,000 gallons per hour; while if necessary almost double work could be got out of it.

The reservoir (covered) at Buckhurst holds 100,000 gallons, and thus a continuous supply, day and night, will be afforded. To test the supply, the engine has been pumping, at the rate of 10,000 gallons per hour, day and night for three or four days; and the lowest to which the water level has been reduced below the surface by this severe test was 50 feet; while, should any emergency require it, the company can pump another 350 feet below this level. There are facilities for doubling both the pumping power and the storage accommodation at Buckhurst.

An 8-inch main has been laid from the pumping-station to the reservoir, and from Buckhurst to the centre of the town, the various streets being supplied by 6-inch, 4-inch, and smaller mains. The pipes have also been taken to Bracknell and Binfield; and the district over which the company has powers also includes Broadmoor, Wellington College, and York Town. We understand that the governors of Wellington College, the Royal Military College, and of Broadmoor, have asked on what terms water can be supplied to those institutions; and a considerable number of consumers have already had the water laid on.

The works, which are very satisfactory, have been carried out by Mr. T.M. Quill, C.E., of Hammersmith, the engineer being Mr. J.W. Grover, C.E., of Westminster. The total outlay up to the present has been between £12,000 and £13,000, and the capital of the company, £20,000 (of which about £14,000 has already been subscribed) allows plenty of margin to extend the works as may be found necessary.

A large company assembled on Tuesday at one o'clock, at the pumping station, and viewed the engine and pumps at work, and a fountain jet showing the pressure from the reservoir; and also inspected a section of the well, with illustrations of fossils found in the sinking, and a plan of the district within the company's powers. At a quarter past one a jet of water about 100 feet in height was raised from an hydrant at the railway station; and at 1.30 members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade took hose up

to the roofs of houses in the Market-place and also to the top of the Town Hall to show the dead pressure. From the roof of the hall, the dead pressure from the reservoir threw a considerable jet, showing a height of 75 feet; and when it is remembered that the hall stands on ground higher by 40 feet than some parts of the town, it will be seen that the pressure is all that could be desired for extinguishing fires and for every other purpose.

At two o'clock about 80 gentlemen sat down to luncheon in the Town Hall, Mr. W. Landsdowne Beale the chairman of the company presiding.....

Sat 25th June

#### NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN

A handsome new drinking fountain of polished Peterhead granite, with troughs for cattle and dogs, the gift of the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitre, has this week been erected against the Town Hall opposite the Bush Hotel. In consequence of some misunderstanding as to the supply of water, however, it cannot, at present, be used.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept

#### THE PROPOSED NEW DRILL HALL

The tender of Mr. Wescott, builder, Wokingham, for the erection of the new Drill Hall and Cottage proposed to be erected under the instructions of Captain Walter has been accepted. The amount of the estimation is £2,350 and the architects for the work are Messrs Brown and Albury of Reading.

1882

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEERS OPENING OF THE NEW DRILL HALL

A ceremony of much interest and of great importance to the town and neighbourhood of Wokingham took place on Wednesday evening when the new Drill Hall, built at the expense of Captain A.F. Walter, for the use of the Wokingham Company of the Berks. Volunteers, was opened by Col. Sir R. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P., at a dinner given by Captain Walter.

The Hall is built on a spacious site in Denmark-street, and is a very handsome and fine building—by far the best room in Wokingham. It is divided into seven bays, and is 70 ft. long by 33 ft. wide, the height to the ridge being 30 ft.; it is entered by a nice porch, and has an armoury and stores at the back, with separate entrances. The material used is red brick, relieved with bands of yellow and grey brick, and with bands of “diaper work” on the exterior. There is a double floor, the top being of pitch pine. A dado of pitch pine runs around the walls, and the roof is finished with an ornamental cornice of the same wood. The roof is of wood and iron, and is extremely well lighted from the top, Rendall’s patent glazing being used; and the ventilation is also excellent. Artificial light is well supplied by means of three Sugg’s 100-candle burners. The Hall is furnished with a moveable platform so that it can be used for other purposes such as lectures and entertainments, which will be of great value to the town as the Hall will accommodate about 500 persons.

The Hall is approached from Denmark-street by an archway between four cottages which have been built in a style corresponding with the hall. There is also a spacious courtyard in which the men can be drilled in fine weather.



Mr. F.W. Albury, of Reading, was the architect and the building has been well carried out by Mr. T.M. Wescott, of Wokingham.

1883

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July

#### THE CORPORATION

The Act for dealing with unreformed corporations, introduced by the Government on the first day of the present session of Parliament, after various amendments in committee, has passed both Houses, and having received the Royal assent on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June last, it has been printed and issued. The main features of the Act have already been mentioned in the Mercury. The next step to be taken will probably be that the Privy Council will issue notice that a public inquiry will be held at Wokingham into the expediency of advising her Majesty to grant a charter, extending the Municipal Corporations Act to the town of Wokingham, and whether it is expedient that any adjoining district should be included if a charter of incorporation be granted. At the inquiry an opportunity will be afforded to the inhabitants to state their views to the Commissioners. In the event of no charter being granted, the future management of the town will be vested in the Local Board, and the magisterial business carried on by the county justices. In the meantime the Corporation property cannot be dealt with by sale, but the charities vested in the Corporation will continue to be administered heretofore until a fresh scheme is prepared by the Charity Commissioners.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### LOCAL BOARD MEETING

The surveyor was instructed to lay down stone crossings at the junctions of Broad-street and Shute End; Peach-street and the Market-place; and Denmark-street and the Market-place. The Board then further considered the question of naming the streets and numbering the houses and also a report presentation by the Survey Committee upon the subject when it was resolved to affix the names of the streets and highways on enamelled plates.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### SUCCESS OF THE WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Under the auspices of the Chiswick Volunteer Fire Brigade, a competition for gold and silver medals was held in Sutton Park on Thursday. Brigades from Acton, Brighton, Chiswick, Colnbrook, Croydon, Ealing, Edenbridge, Hampton Court Palace, Hanwell, Leyton, Putton Sutton, Twickenham, Uxbridge, Watford, Willesden,, and Wokingham, took part in the contest. The Wokingham Brigade travelled to Sutton by train on Thursday morning. At the Wokingham Station, before the departure of the Brigade, the excellent physique and cleanly equipment of the men was favourably commented on, and during the day the fully earned the eulogies passed upon them.

Out of four competitions for medals, the Wokingham Brigade came off victorious in three, losing the fourth (the four men drill) by less than a second. The following were the prizes won:-Single-man drill, gold medal, Mr. C. Brant; two-men drill, two gold and silver medals, Mr. C. Brant and Mr. Aiger; six-men drill (with officer), 7 silver medals, Messrs. Ifould, Brant, Caiger, Green, Chambers, Hatton and Hall.

## CRICKET

The return match between Chertsey and Wokingham was played at the former place on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst., and resulted in favour of Wokingham, who scored 144 in one innings, against 37 and 39 by their opponents. For the winners Cotterell made 16, Hutson 28, Gater 14, Vandyke 32, and Skelton 20. For Chertsey, Lowell made 15 and 3.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept.

## LOCAL BOARD MEETING

Patterns of blue enamelled plates for the names of the streets were produced and one was selected the letters of which were three inches long.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

## THE DRILL HALL

There is now being added to this fine building (at the expense of Captain A.F. Walter, Wokingham Volunteers) a new room and offices at a cost of nearly £500. The room will be 26 feet by 40 feet and is in design and material in harmony with the main building. It will be found very useful at County balls and other gatherings.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

## THE DRILL HALL

Captain A.F. Walter has accepted the tender of Mr. W.H. Wernham, Builder, Reading for the erection of a new room and offices adjoining the Drill Hall. Work at a cost of £487 10s. Messrs. Brown & Albury are the architects.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Nov

## IMPROVED RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION

We understand that, at an interview between the General Manager of the South Western Railway Company and Mr. Dill of Wokingham that the former undertook at Mr. Dill's request to consider the question of building a new station at Wokingham on the site now used as a fairground.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

## THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

The London and South-Western Railway Company have given notice of their intention to apply to Parliament in the ensuing session for leave to bring in a Bill authorising the execution of a number of works on various parts of their system. Among other improvements for which power will be asked is the stopping up and deviation of this path over the railway near Wokingham Junction, known as Tangley or Langborough Crossing, leading from Tangley to Langborough-lane and Gipsy-lane, and the construction of a footbridge in lieu of the crossing.

It is also proposed to construct at Basingstoke a bridge over Bunnian-place, at a point about a chain south of the southern end of the existing bridge bearing an additional line or additional lines of rails.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

## SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

This company has just erected a wooden footbridge over the dangerous crossing at Langborough where the unfortunate child, Lottie Martin, was killed last summer. All the materials being in readiness and the necessary preparations made, the bridge was

securely fixed on Sunday last, the immunity from train service on that day giving the men the necessary time to complete the work.

The South Eastern Company has at last determined to give proper accommodation by erecting a new station, and throwing a bridge over the crossing close by, the total cost being £15,000.

1884

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jan

NOTICES

Privy Council Office'  
January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1884

Notice is hereby given, that a PETITION has been addressed to her Majesty In Counsell by certain inhabitant householders of the district of the Local Board of Wokingham, in the parish of Wokingham, in the county of Berks, PRAYING that a CHARTER may be GRANTED to that district whereby the powers and provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act may be extended to the inhabitants thereof; and NOTICE is hereby further given, that the said Petition will be taken into consideration by a Committee of the Lords of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council on the Fourteenth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Four.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

TOWN OF WOKINGHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

PROPOSED NEW CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Hon. T. H. W. Pelham, the Commissioner appointed by the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, will OPEN AN INQUIRY at the TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM, on Friday, the 7th day of March, 1884, at Twelve o'clock at noon, and proceed to take evidence in reference to the Petition for the Grant of a New Charter of Incorporation to the Town of Wokingham, according to the provisions of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882," and "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1883." And further, all persons interested in the inquiry, and who may wish to give evidence before the said Commissioner, must then and there attend, and they will be heard.

Dated this 21st day of February, 1884.

This notice is published by direction of the said Commissioner.

EDWARD FRANKUM,  
Town Clerk of Wokingham.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF THE THOROUGHFARE

Most of the freehold property in the Market-place and elsewhere belonging to the late Mr. J. Heelas is advertised to be sold by public auction. Amongst this property are the premises in the occupation of Mr. Webster, grocer, stretching from the Market-place along the whole length of Roe-lane, which connects the former place with Rose-street. This lane is extremely narrow..... [whole line illegible].....to those who are compelled to use it. The trustees under the will having intimated their willingness to favourably consider an offer from the Town for the purchase of the premises in

question for the purpose of demolition, with a view to the widening of the thoroughfare, the Alderman convening a public meeting, which was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of considering the matter. There was a good attendance, among those present being Mr. Alderman Goodchild, Mr. Frankum (Town Clerk), the Rector of Wokingham, and Messrs. Dill, Roberts, T.W.T. Cooke, Gibson, Brant, Briginshaw, Ifould, Heron, Sergeant, Watts, Weeks, Powell, Churchman, Martin &c.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. C.G. Dill, and seconded by Mr. W.B. Mower:- "That this meeting approves of the proposed purchase of property in Roe Lane, for the purpose of widening the lane, and recommends the appointment of a committee of five (with power to add to their number) to negotiate with the owners for the purchase of the property for that purpose, by voluntary subscriptions." After an animated discussion, in which the proposed improvement was strongly advocated, the resolution was carried unanimously, and the following committee was formed:- Mr. Alderman Goodchild, and Messrs. C.G. Dill, T. Gibson, W.B. Mower, and W. White.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May

The premises required for the improvement of Roe-lane have been purchased by Mr. Tyndale Heelas. At a meeting of the Committee on Thursday morning Mr. Heelas attended and stated that he wished to meet the wishes of the town and would as early as possible plans of the contemplated improvements.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May

#### SALE OF THE LATE JOHN HEELAS'S PROPERTY

The sale of the household property in the town and neighbourhood took place in the Rose Hotel on Wednesday afternoon. There was a large attendance. The confectionery premises in the Market-place were purchased by William Chambers, the occupant for £800; the house tenanted by Mr. E. Frankum and the adjoining house were purchased by Mr. Alderman Goodchild for £800; the two dwelling houses close by fetched £500; a piece of building land 4½ acres abutting on the Langborough-road was bought by [G P??] for £730; and a small piece opposite fetched £185. The other lots at a greater distance from the town were disposed of at far prices. Several lots had been previously disposed of by private treaty.

5<sup>th</sup> July Berkshire Chronicle

#### SERIOUS FIRE AT WOKINGHAM

The largest and most serious fire which has occurred here since the destruction of Mr T.M. Wescott's premises in Peach Street 12 years ago took place on Thursday last, resulting in the total demolition of the paper mills in King Street, near Embrook, the property of Messrs Wescott & Sons. About 12.45 a.m. on Thursday morning P.C. Mason, who was in Wokingham, saw flames bursting forth in the direction of Reading. He immediately gave the alarm at the Fire Brigade Station, and, proceeding in the direction of the lurid light, met a messenger hastening to summon aid. The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, under the command of Captain E. Ifould, with admirable promptitude, was soon on the spot, and at once discerning that all efforts to subdue the fierce conflagration already raging in the mill would be simply futile, they confined their efforts to prevent the flames attacking the engine house (the engine in which is valued at £1,200) and Mr Wescott's residence, situate only 15 yards from the fire.

It is entirely owing to their strenuous exertions and admirably disciplined work that these two places have not met the unfortunate fate of the mill itself. By daylight the mill was entirely gutted. The charred masses of paper, &c., buried in the ruins continued to smoulder throughout Thursday, and about 9 p.m. gave such ominous symptoms of again bursting forth that the brigade - some of whom had retired to rest to make up the loss of the previous night's rest - were again summoned and succeed in preventing further damage.

The fire was first discovered by the night watchman. No cause can at present be assigned for the outbreak. The damage, which cannot yet be precisely estimated, will amount to several thousand pounds. The property is insured in the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company. We are glad to state that no serious personal accident resulted. Fireman Chambers, however, received a slight bruise on the face from a falling brick. The workmanship-like manner in which the brigade handled their engine and efficiently carried out the orders of their captain does them infinite credit and deserves the warmest thanks of those upon whom the loss of valuable property, saved by their skill and application, would have fallen.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug

#### THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance office has appreciated the exertions of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade at the recent fire at Messrs. Wescott's Paper Mill, by which much valuable machinery was saved, by liberally presenting the members with a sum amounting to nearly double the claim they tendered. On Monday the brigade had an excursion to Portsmouth and Ryde, spending a very pleasant holiday in the Isle of Wight. During the afternoon some malicious or thoughtless person in Wokingham put into circulation an unfounded rumour that two of the party had been drowned, and thereby caused much needless anxiety to the friends of those referred to, at whose houses constant enquiries were made after the rumour had been set afloat.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY STATION

During the last few months the South Eastern Railway Station, which for a long time past had been in a most dilapidated condition, has been undergoing thorough renovation, and is now, as far as cleanliness and decency are concerned, in an efficient state. Most of the old defects of accommodation have, however, unfortunately been retained, especially noticeable being the compulsory crossing of the metals by all passengers from one platform to the other, and the exceedingly dangerous level crossing over the Barkham-road.

That no fatal accident has ere this happened on this spot seems (remarks a correspondent) a direct interposition of Providence, as on any day from 30 to 40 children and others may be seen waiting to continue their road over the line to or from school. It is often remarked by strangers who notice the danger, that the inhabitants are to blame for allowing the continuance of such a state of affairs. The dwarf wall, surmounted by a low palisade, lately erected by Mr. Walter, M.P., and stretching from the station to St. Paul's Rectory, will, when the road has been widened, for which provision is made, be an immense improvement to the entrance to the town.

#### BULLOCK TURNS ON BOY

On Thursday afternoon a bullock from the Marchioness of Downshire's farm was being driven to Mr. Briginshaw's butcher, and when in Peach-street it turned at a boy named Collyer, who narrowly escaped, the animal's horns grazing the skin off one of his fingers. Its horns came in contact with Mr. Evans' window, only a few inches below the plate-glass. The animal, which was nearly exhausted, was with difficulty removed.

1885

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April

#### STREET IMPROVEMENT

A meeting of the committee appointed to carry out the contemplated improvement in Broad-street and Roe-lane was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. Alderman Goodchild presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. Gibson, J. Gadd, W. White, J.F. Sergeant, W. B. Mower, and M.G.C. Dill. It was unanimously resolved to accept the offer of Mr. Tyndale Heelas for carrying out the alterations by removing and rebuilding the premises occupied by Mr. Webster, grocer, & c., leaving a thoroughfare of not less than 20 feet in width in Roe-lane. The committee then adjourned till the 9<sup>th</sup>. Inst. In the meantime a list of subscriptions will be prepared and, in due course, advertised.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Aug

#### THE BOROUGH CHARTER

The new Charter of Incorporation creating the Borough of Wokingham has at length been issued from the Privy Council Office, and duly received in the town. By its provisions 12 Councillors will have to be elected on Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> November next, and on the 9th November the first Mayor will be chosen. By the scheme of the Charter the boundary of the new Borough is a co-extensive with the limits of the present Local Board, whose functions and duties will merge in the new Corporation in November, although we believe, the present Board will continue in existence until the 25<sup>th</sup> of March next. We can but hope that the new dignity attained by the town will tend to increase its importance and prosperity, and that the enlarged powers and duties conferred may be judiciously carried out, so that the Borough of Wokingham, which is beyond doubt one of the oldest chartered Corporations in the Country, may long continue to flourish.

#### THE RECORDERSHIP

We understand that the learned Recorder of Wokingham, Sir George Russell, Bart., having been adopted as the Conservative candidate for the County, to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Sir R. Loyd Lindsay to the Peerage, has resigned from the Recordership, lest it might be thought that the office gave any political advantage. Although appreciating the sense of honour which has prompted Sir George's resignation, many of the inhabitants would have wished that he had continued in office until the dissolution of the old Corporation in November next when the office would have come to an end with the other old Corporate offices. The new Corporation has no separate Commission of the Peace, but if it should petition for that privilege a new Recorder would have to be found.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug

### FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION

Four members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, Messrs. Ifould, Brant, Green and Caiger attended the Grand Competition at Shoreham, under the auspices of the Brighton Fire Brigade, on Monday last when 28 brigades from different parts of the country competed. In the two-man drill Messrs. Caiger and Brant obtained the first place performing the work in the exceedingly short space of 43  $\frac{2}{5}$  seconds. In the four-man drill the Wokingham Brigade obtained the fourth prize, their time being 45  $\frac{4}{5}$  seconds.

26<sup>th</sup> September

### DEATH OF MR. EDWARD NICHOLSON

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Nicholson which took place on Friday morning.

Sat 3rd Oct

### THE NEW CHARTER

The municipal election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November is causing considerable excitement in Wokingham. We understand that about 25 candidates have already been nominated. The members of the Local Board have been nominated in a body by ten of the Burgesses. The time in which nominations can be handed in closes this (Saturday) afternoon. Great satisfaction is expressed at Wokingham being chosen as the place of nomination of Parliamentary candidates for the Wokingham Division of Berkshire.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Oct

### WOKINGHAM NEW CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

The following is a summary of the Charter that was read out during the meeting:-

The Charter, for which a petition was presented in December 1883, is granted under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882.

So much of the Parish of Wokingham as is within the limits of the existing Local Government District of Wokingham is created a Municipal Borough, by the name of the "Borough of Wokingham," the inhabitants to be one body politic and corporate by the name of the "Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Wokingham, who may assume armorial bearings, and take and hold lands vested in them, or occupy lands or buildings necessary for their use, and shall have the powers and privileges usually invested by law in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Municipal Borough."

The number of Alderman to be four, and the number of Councillors to be twelve.

Henry Trower Roberts, solicitor, of Wokingham, or, in case of his death, refusal, or inability, John Frederick Sergeant, is to perform the duty of Town Clerk, and William Goodchild, of Wokingham, or, in default of him, Jas. Weeks is to perform the duties of mayor until the first election.

The first election is to take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November next (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> being Sunday), and the first meeting of the Council is to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November.

The first schedule defines the boundary of the Borough, which is the same as the area under the jurisdiction of the Local Board.

The second schedule states that one-third of the Councillors, the four who are elected by the smallest number of votes, shall go out of office on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886, another third, the four who received the next-smallest number of votes, on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887, and the remaining third on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1888. The two Aldermen who shall be

elected by the smallest number votes to go out of office on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1888, and the remaining two on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1891.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

It is proposed to celebrate the election of the first Mayor of Wokingham on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. by a display of fireworks.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

Mr. W. Goodchild, acting as Mayor for the Borough of Wokingham for the purpose of the first election of Town Councillors, sat in the Town Hall on Monday to hear objections against the nominations of some candidates. There were 29 nominations for the 12 seats, but some persons were nominated twice over and some nomination papers were thrown out, on account of a slight irregularity in filling in the forms. In the end the number of candidates duly nominated was reduced to 21, the names and descriptions being as follows:

C. Brant, butcher; H. Butler, grocer; G. Evans, saddler; W. Goodchild, gentleman; W.J. Goatlee, stationer; H.E. Hall, stationer; T.W. Heelas, draper; D.N. Heron, wine merchant; E. Ifould, butcher; F. Johnson, accountant; S. Knight, plumber; T.P. Major, gentleman; T.B. Martin, gentleman; W. Moorcock, gentleman; W.B. Mower, corn dealer; G.T. Phillips, timber merchant; G. Pigg, baker; G. Sale, furniture dealer; J. Watts, auctioneer; J. Wicks, gentleman; and T.M. Wescott, gentleman. The polling takes place on Monday.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### THE OLD CORPORATION

On Saturday a special meeting of this body was held for the purpose of balancing the accounts to be handed over to the new Corporation on the following Monday. The Town Clerk (Mr. Frankum) produced the accounts which showed the sum of £600 invested in consols, £100 6s. 6d. at the bankers', and £? 9s. 1d. in the hands of the Town Clerk, which sums, after paying the cost of obtaining the new Charter became vested in the new Corporation on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. They were accordingly ordered to be paid over to the new Borough treasurer when appointed. A resolution was proposed and unanimously agreed upon that the members of the old Corporation on their dissolution begged to record their high opinion of the valuable and efficient services of their Town Clerk, Mr. Edward Frankum, in all matters relating to the office, and the accurate and satisfactory manner in which he had kept the accounts relating to Corporation property, for which they tendered him their best thanks.

#### THE ELECTION OF THE FIRST MAYOR

On Monday evening, following the meeting of the newly-elected Town Council, the Mayor (Mr. T.M. Wescott) provided a banquet in the Town Hall, invitations being limited to the members of the Corporation and of the old Local Board. At 7 pm people from the town and district began to assemble in large numbers in the Market-place, where the Wokingham Brass Band was in attendance, and indulged in the letting off of fireworks and other entertainments. At 8 pm a torchlight procession passed, preceded by the band, most of the torchbearers being decked out in grotesque fashion. Afterwards there was a bonfire on Langborough Recreation Ground where also a display of fireworks was given by Messrs. Robini. Messrs H. Marlow and his



committee deserve much praise for their efforts to provide amusement on the occasion. Over 2,000 people assembled.

#### VACANCIES IN THE TOWN COUNCIL

A second election will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. To choose four Councillors to fill the places of Messrs. Wescott, Goodchild, Moorcock and Martin who have been elected Aldermen. Seven of the unsuccessful candidates on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. will be again nominated, and a number of new aspirants are expected to enter the field.

Sat 21st Nov

#### VACANCIES IN THE TOWN COUNCIL

The appointment of Messrs. Martin, Wescott, Goodchild and Moorcock to the office of Alderman leaves four vacancies in the Wokingham Town Council which will be filled up on Monday next. Eleven candidates were nominated but two of these withdrew their candidature leaving nine who will go to the poll.

#### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Mr. H.T. Roberts was appointed Town Clerk at the first council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The Municipal Election to fill the four vacancies in the Town Council caused by the appointment of four of its members to the position of Alderman took place on Monday, at the Town Hall between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. There were nine candidates. The polling went on steadily throughout the day, but little excitement was exhibited in the town. Elected were: Daniel Norton Heron (202); Robert Henderson (174); George Sale (167); Frederick Johnson (153).

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was resolved to invite John Walter III to be High Steward of the Borough. Mr. Ducrocq was appointed assistant Treasurer at a salary of £10. The Town Clerk's salary was fixed at £75 per annum.

1886

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S TREATS AT THE WOKINGHAM UNION

Christmas Day at the Wokingham Union is always looked forward to by the inmates with unusual enthusiasm, Mr. and Mrs. Treverton, the respected master and matron, doing their utmost to promote the comfort of those in their charge. This year they seemed to have excelled their previous efforts to provide seasonable entertainment. Early in the morning Christmas cards, kindly sent by Mrs. Knox, of Sonning Grove, and addressed by name, were distributed to each inmate and to the officers. Instead of the ordinary diet for breakfast, tea and bread and butter was served to all. At 10.30 Divine service was conducted in the chapel by the Rev. B.R. Body, the chaplain. The company then met in the dining hall, which was beautifully decorated with festooned evergreens, mottoes and designs, and partook of a bountiful dinner, consisting of roast

beef, baked potatoes, and plum pudding, with a pint of beer to each adult and milk for the children. After dinner oranges, apples, figs, sweets, nuts, tobacco and snuff, were served. In the evening tea, with bread and butter and cake in ample quantity, was provided for all. Before retiring, the inmates gave three cheers for the guardians, who had so liberally entertained them.

On New-year's day the inmates of the Union were again enabled, by the kind permission of the Guardians and through the energy of the master and matron, to enjoy a very pleasant evening. An excellent tea was served in the dining hall, at one end of which a large platform was erected, covered with crimson baize, on which was staged a splendid collection of palms and other stove plants, lent and arranged by Mr. Williamson, gardener to Sir Edward Walter. The visitors included the Countess Desart, the Hon. O. Cuffe, Sir Edward Walter, Lady and Miss Walter, Mr. and Miss Murdoch, Mrs. De Vitre, the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mrs. Gray, Dr. and Mrs. Hicks, the Rev. B.R. Body, Mr. and Mrs. Ducrocq, and the Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. T.M. Wescott.) The Mayor who is one of the guardians, presented each of the inmates with a threepenny piece.

In the centre of the hall a table was provided for the visitors, which was served by Mrs. Treverton, the matron. Mrs. Webster, of Broad Street, kindly sent her piano for the occasion, and Mr. J.W. Moss, organist of All Saints' Church, Wokingham, played choice selections during tea. After the repast the inmates retired to their wards for a short time, while the seats were arranged for an entertainment. This was carried out with great satisfaction to all present.

#### Programme

During an interval, the master and matron distributed among the inmates tobacco, oranges, apples and sweets, and a cask of biscuits, which was kindly sent by W.I. Palmer, of Reading. The performers were also entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Treverton, after which the Glee Party sang several songs, and shortly after ten o'clock the inmates retired to bed, much pleased and gratified. The master deserves great praise for his efforts in arranging such a tea and entertainment for the old people. At the close of the proceedings a vote of thanks was accorded, with musical honours, to the master and matron for their kindness, and similar compliments were paid to others who had assisted materially to make every one happy.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT POTTERY

During last week, whilst the men in the employ of the Wokingham Corporation were digging gravel on the Glebe land, small quantities of broken Roman or other ancient pottery were discovered at a depth of about four feet. Later on a plain earthen urn about 12 inches high was obtained almost complete, broken only round the upper rim. It is now in the possession of the Rector. The pits are situated only a few yards from the Rectory garden.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### THE MARKET QUESTION

Mr. H. Hutt, of Reading, attended the council meeting and stated that he was willing to rent the Market for the sole right of sale by auction at a rental of £10, per annum for three years, at the end of which time, if he desired it, the agreement to be extended for four years.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Watts, seconded by Mr. Henderson, that Mr. Hutt's proposal for the exclusive right for selling live and agricultural stock for three

years, with option for renewal for a further term of four years, be accepted on condition that Mr. Hutt provide a permanent rail for beasts and rows (to become the property of the Corporation) and portable hurdles for sheep and pigs; no rent to be charged for the first year, afterwards a rental of £10 per annum; the clearing of the market and removal of hurdles to devolve on Mr. Hutt; the agreement to be cancelled if no market be held for three months; and the council to have power to cancel the agreement should they have reasons for doing so on payment to Mr. Hutt a penalty of £50.

Mr. Hutt accepted these terms.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE NEW MARKET

In accordance to the agreement entered into between the Wokingham Corporation and Mr. Henry Hutt, the new Fortnightly Auction Market was opened with every prospect of success, on Tuesday. There was a good supply of cattle, sheep, pigs, and fowls, together with several horses. Some mangolds sent by the Mayor fetched 25s. per ton. Among these who sent stock were Lord Braybrook, Lady Shute, Mr. S.A. Hankey, Mr. C.E. Prime, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Bulkeley. Altogether about 200 animals were penned, including 60 horned stock and calves, 80 sheep and lambs, 60 pigs, and 8 horses. The total of the sales amounted to nearly £800.

The Mayor, in opening the market and introducing Mr. Hutt, said he hoped they would all support the Wokingham Cattle Market and endeavour to make it a great success. Mr. Watts (of Messrs. Weeks and Watts) said it might be thought that as a local auctioneer he would not like the idea of a stranger coming to conduct an auction market in the town; but such was not the case; the proposal as to accepting Mr. Hutt's application was made by him, and he would lend all his influence to make the market successful.

Mr. Hutt thanked the Mayor and Mr. Watts for their kind expressions, and alluded to his experience at markets in Reading and other towns. Wokingham had now got a Mayor and Corporation, and they were going to have a cattle market, and he would spare no effort to make it a success.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

A special meeting was held on Monday to consider the letter received from the Gas Company, in answer to that of the Council on the question of public lighting. The letter stated that the Gas Company could not, without injury to the shareholders, reduce their terms of below £2. 10s. per annum per lamp, this representing a lump sum of £189 per annum. It was proposed by Mr. Watts and seconded by Mr. Brant, that the offer of the Gas Company be accepted. After considerable discussion, the matter was adjourned until the following Thursday.

At the Council meeting on Thursday there were present the Mayor, Alderman Goodchild, Martin, and Moorcock, and councillors Heron, Sale, Johnson, Knight, Mower, Hall, Brant, and Watts. After transacting some business relating to finance and instructions to the Medical Officer, Mr. Johnson said he considered that a fair amount payable for lighting the borough with gas would be £175 per annum. Mr. Hall considered that this estimate would be very much too high. He thought £25, was too much per annum for a man to attend to the lamps, and argued that £28 10s. was sufficient for this purpose. Mr. Sale complained that the letter from the directors of

the Gas Company had not been handed to the Gas Committee. The original proposition, proposed at the special meeting on Monday by Mr. Watts, was then read by the Mayor, viz., that the offer of the Gas Company to light the 75 lamps of the borough for £2. 10s. each be accepted. Mr. Hall proposed, and Ald. Moorcock seconded, that in consequence of the Gas Company charging more than 5s. per 1,000 feet for their gas, the town be illuminated with oil for one year. On being put to the Council, these voted for the amendment: Ald. Moorcock and Martin, and Councillors Hall, Mower, Sale, and Heron. Against: Councillors Watts, Brant and Johnson; those members interested in the Gas Company did not vote.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### WOKINGHAM VOLUNTARY FIRE BRIGADE

The members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade, assisted by a number of friends gave a successful entertainment in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. Mr. C.T. Murdoch M.P. presided and there was a large attendance. The programme, which included in the latter part, a practical delineation of a fireman's duty, followed by ambulance drill was efficiently carried out. Miss Murdoch, Miss Laird, Mr. Medcalf and Mr. H.G. Powell were warmly applauded in their songs as was also Mr. F. Bartlett in his excellent recital of "The Fireman's Love." It is gratifying to learn that the financial result of the entertainment will place a substantial balance at the disposal of the deserving body for which it was inaugurated. Mr. W.J. Allan acted as accompanist and also kindly lent a piano for the occasion.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AT A FIRE

The Lancashire insurance Company has presented Mr. Caiger, Engineer of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade with a cheque for £5 together with their thanks, for his courageous conduct in entering a burning room some weeks ago at North Court, Finchampstead, the residence of Mr. A.F. Walter, and extinguishing the fire, which, but for his timely exertions, would in all probability, have destroyed the mansion.

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE ENTERTAINMENT

From the proceeds of the entertainment given on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade have been enabled to carry the sum of £12 8s. 3d. to their funds. The result is most satisfactory, and shows the esteem in which the voluntary services of the Brigade are held in the neighbourhood.

1887

Sat 1st Jan

#### THE SNOWSTORM

Wokingham was, like other towns in the neighbourhood, visited with a severe snowstorm which commenced Sunday evening shortly after five o'clock. The snow lay very thick on the ground making locomotion very difficult and many tradesmen complained that the Town Council did not take the necessary steps for cleaning the thoroughfares. Owing to the violence of the storm a large number of trees in the parks nearby were blown down while many of the telegraph poles and wires for a considerable distance were broken. Up to Thursday night telegraph communication

was seriously impeded and the trains were very late. Fortunately little or no damage was experienced in the town and no casualties were reported from neighbouring villages. Great praise is directed to Mr. Trewren the energetic station master for the way in which he manipulated the traffic considering the difficulties he encountered with regard to signalling and no telegraphic communications except for Earley.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE WEATHER

Another heavy fall of snow took place on Monday night and Tuesday morning; a thaw then set in, followed by a frost in the evening. It was freezing nearly all day on Wednesday, and the streets and pavements were in a dangerous condition. Telegraphic communication, which has been interrupted since Sunday week between Reading, Wokingham and other stations on the S.W.R. was not re-established till noon on Thursday last.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

The Ramsdale troupe of minstrels have given several entertainments in the Town Hall, Wokingham, during the past week and have been well patronised. On Monday evening the entertainment was under the patronage of the mayor, Aldermen and Town Council.

#### SOUP KITCHEN

In consequence of the severity of the weather, work in the Wokingham district is scarce, and considerable distress is prevalent. Under the able superintendence of Miss Roberts a soup kitchen has been started at the "British Workman." On Tuesday, a large quantity of soup was distributed, and the recipients expressed grateful thanks for the nourishing food which the kind thoughtfulness of the charitable, through Miss Roberts, had provided for them. There are distributions on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and subscribers to the fund have the privilege of presenting tickets to deserving persons.

#### WOKINGHAM STOCK MARKET

This market on Tuesday last, considering the weather, was well supplied with fat beasts, sheep, calves, hogs and porkers, all of which sold well. Mr. Goodchild and Mr. Goddard were the largest buyers for fat beasts and sheep, and Mr. Tew for calves, and Mr. Morris of Reading, bought 20 nice quality fat hogs. Poultry made 6s. per couple. The business was conducted by Mr. Henry Hutt, the appointed auctioneer.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April The Times

#### WRECK OF A CHANNEL STEAMER

This morning news was received at Dieppe that the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company's steamer Victoria, commanded by Captain Clarke, with 200 passengers on board, had run on the rocks under the lighthouse at Varengeville, nine miles from Dieppe. I proceeded on a tricycle at once to the spot, and on my way met a seaman, who told me that 50 persons had been drowned by rushing into the boats immediately after the vessel struck. Proceeding to the lighthouse I saw the Victoria lying about half a mile from the shore, stern on the rocks, with her bows under water. I met the Commissary of Marine and Mr. Lee Jortin, Vice Consul, who had been searching round the villages for news. At present the number of those drowned cannot

be ascertained. I can see as I write, a table and some chairs floating out of the ship. Captain Clarke has just left her in a boat for Dieppe.

LATER

Captain Clarke, who commanded the Victoria, states that the vessel left Newhaven last night with 94 passengers on board. On their nearing the French coast at about 3 a.m. a heavy fog settled down. At 4 he saw a "dark shade," and ordered the engineers to move astern at full speed. The ship's head was to the north-west. She stopped, ported, went ahead, and immediately struck her bows going under. He first heard the foghorn an hour later.

He begged the passengers to be quiet, and ordered the boats to be lowered. The ladies got into the first boat, but some gentlemen jumped in also. As it was being lowered a lady's shawl fouled the block, the boat capsized, and four only of those in her were saved. The second boat filled, swamped, and drifted to leeward. The third boat disappeared in the fog with those placed in her, and the fourth boat took off the remainder. The passengers were panic-stricken

The captain attributes the accident to the fog, and to the fact that no foghorn was being sounded, as it usually is. He is unable to give the number of those drowned. The crew did all they could to allay the panic, and the captain remained on board until all the passengers had left. He has been in service for 28 years and has never had an accident before.

The bodies of three women and one child have been picked up. A Mrs. Smith and three of her children have been drowned, and the fourth child is in charge of the Vice-Consul here. They were going to Geneva. A Miss Hunter has also been drowned. At the lowest computation 20 have perished, but their names are not yet obtainable. They are mostly of French nationality

The missing boats were found, with 37 passengers on board of one, 20 miles down the coast.

*(Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Brown, members of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham were on board.)*

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April 1887 Berkshire Chronicle

#### THE WRECK OF THE VICTORIA

It is believed that Mr. Towers Brown, the eldest son of the Rev. J.T. Brown, St. Paul's Rectory, with his wife, to whom he was only recently married, were on board the steamship Victoria, which was wrecked near Cape D'Ailly on Wednesday last. No tidings have been received at Wokingham of or from them. The Rev. J.T. Brown proceeded to London on Thursday afternoon to prosecute enquiries, and subsequently crossed the channel in furtherance of the same object. Up till now (Friday afternoon) no information has been obtained.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April 1887 Berkshire Chronicle

#### THE LATE MR. & MRS. W. TOWERS BROWN.

Nothing further has been heard of those unfortunate young people. On Sunday the services at St. Paul's Church, of which the Rev. J.T. Brown is rector, were made appropriate to the occasion, and very large congregations assembled both morning and evening. Most [illegible] and eloquent services were preached by the Rev. A Peile from the Isle of Wight, a relative of Mr. Brown's family. A muffled peal was rung out in the evening.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May

#### FUNERAL OF MR. & MRS. WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, AT WOKINGHAM

It will be remembered that in the wreck of the steamer Victoria, on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the life of Mrs. Towers Brown was lost through the accident to the first boat, and her husband, with noble self-devotion, flung himself into the sea with a view to save her and also died. No traces of the bodies were found, although a vigilant watch was kept along the coast, till Friday evening in last week, when that of Mrs. Brown was recovered at Verangeville, and a few hours later on her husband's was found at Quiverville, both places being near Dieppe. There was no doubt of their identity, from the watches and rings and other effects which were on their persons. The Rev. H.F. Wolley, the vicar of Shortlands, Kent, a great friend of the family, instantly started to superintend the removal of their remains. The greatest care was shown by Mons. Marcellet, the resident superintendent at Dieppe of the London and Brighton Railway; with his own hands he tended the bodies, and gave the utmost attendance to the arrangements for their transport to England; indeed too much praise and gratitude cannot be given to the French officials at the above-mentioned places, and to the proprietors and secretary and servants of the Hotel Royal, Dieppe, and to all employed under the Railway Company.

It was a very effecting sight, and one which will be long remembered by all who were present, when the remains of the husband and wife were deposited in the same grave in St. Paul's Churchyard, Wokingham, on Wednesday afternoon, the two plain coffins of foreign shape telling the tale of their death in the waters on the French coast. The coffins bore the inscriptions (added after their arrival):--

“WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, died April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1887, aged 28,”

and

“GUNHILDA MARY BROWN, died April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1887, aged 22.”

The church and churchyard were filled with persons who were desirous to show their sympathy with the two families of the deceased; and we may add the veneration and love in which the Rev. J.T. Brown is held by all classes; indeed, it is not too much to say that seldom has a funeral which was not a public one been attended by large numbers, or with greater interest. The opening sentences at the gate were said by the Rev. J. Franklin Llewellyn, curate of the parish. The Lesson was read by the Rector of Wokingham, and the committal to the grave was taken by the Rev. H.F. Wolley.

A service followed.

#### THE VICTORIA ALMSHOUSES, WOKINGHAM

The erection of the Victoria Almshouses in Wokingham as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee, is progressing rapidly. The roof has been on some time, the interior work is being pushed forward, and there is little doubt that the Almshouses will be ready for the opening ceremony on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. It is understood that there have already been numerous applications from “all sorts and conditions of men, “with a view to securing occupation of the houses when they are ready.

On Friday evening, the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., the Mayor (Mr. T. M. Wescott), who is superintending the erection of the Almshouses, invited the builders and the *employees* to meet him at supper at the Ship Inn, Peach Street, where an excellent repast was provided by Mrs. Lush. About 20 sat down, the Mayor being in the chair, and Mr. Neal occupying the vice-chair.

The Mayor proposed “The health of the Queen and Royal Family.” He said that while all ought to be thankful for fifty years of such a reign as our gracious Queen's, those like himself, who could remember her Majesty's coronation, ought to be even

more thankful that they had been allowed to live to see the accomplishment of her Jubilee.

The toast was heartily responded to and the National Anthem was sung.

Mr. Neal proposed the health of the Chairman," who he said had honourably won his present position as Mayor, and of whom the town generally was proud. It was entirely owing to his determination and energy that these almshouses, which had provided work for many, had been built. In the name of all present, he also thanked him for his generous entertainment that evening.

The toast was drunk enthusiastically with musical honours.

The Mayor, in responding, thanked the company for so warmly drinking his health. He had been 32 years in the town, and he trusted he should spend the remainder of his days in it. During the whole of that time he had never missed an opportunity of bringing work into the town, and whatever position he occupied he would always work heartily to the same end.

Mr. C. Brooker proposed "the trade and prosperity of Wokingham," coupled with the names of Mr. Neal and Mr. Gray." He remarked that the fact of the Mayor, who had the superintendences of the building operations at the Almshouses, having inviting all concerned to meet him there that night was a proof that the contract was being carried out by Mr. Neal to his entire satisfaction.

Mr. Neal suitably responded.

The Mayor, in proposing the toast of "the Ladies," complimented Mrs. Lush on the efficient manner in which she had catered.

Songs were sung, and a very pleasant evening spent, the proceedings closing with the National Anthem.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WARREN FARM, BINFIELD

One of the most serious and destructive fires which has occurred in the neighbourhood of Wokingham since 1872 when Mr. T.M. Wescott's timber premises in Peach Street were burnt to the ground, took place on Tuesday night at Old Warren farm, the property of Lord Braybrooke, situated about midway between Bill Hill and Billingbear and the town of Wokingham. There seems but little doubt that the fire was the work of some incendiary, who must have watched his opportunity when favoured by darkness and wind, to ensure the widest destruction and his own personal safety in flight. It is understood that a suspicious individual was seen in the neighbourhood of the fire the same evening.

It appears that Mr. Edward Benning, the bailiff under Mr. Groves (Lord Braybrooke's steward), saw the premises all safe about 8.30 p.m. Not more than a quarter of an hour afterwards he was called out by John Johnson, a shepherd in the service of Mr. Gilbert King, residing about a quarter of a mile off, who stated that Miss Sarah King had seen a rick on fire, and sent him to give the alarm. Proceeding to the rick yard they a straw rick in the extreme corner from the house rising into full blaze, the fresh N.E. wind blowing the flames directly over the rick yard, buildings, and dwelling house. About the same time Mr. Groves was aroused by the continuous barking of his dog, and on coming out saw the blaze, but was prevented by the intervening birch wood from seeing the exact spot. He, however, hurried forward and soon found it was the Old Warren Farm. There are two ponds in the vicinity, but in consequence of the long drought both were dry, and the three wells, from the same cause, were exceedingly low. Mr. Groves saw at once that under the adverse circumstances the services of the fire engine were superfluous, and he and a number



of people already coming in from the district, who willingly assisted, devoted their energies to cutting a drift way between the barns and other buildings by the removal of a portion of the cow sheds.

The Wokingham Fire Brigade was summoned by Supt. Atkin immediately the extent and close proximity of the fire were discovered. At this time the flames were raging furiously and threw quite a lurid glare over the town, but the exact locality or distance was unknown or variously estimated. With praiseworthy promptitude the Brigade assembled under the command of Mr. Ifould (the captain), and in a few minutes from the alarm, had horsed their engine from the Railway Hotel, and were en route in the direction of the conflagration. On arrival their total powerlessness to subdue the flames was apparent, and after playing for a few minutes on the flames nearest the driftway they lent valuable assistance towards rendering that space more effective. While engaged in this work, through the tilting of a rafter, Firemen Caiger and Hathaway were precipitated with considerable force to the ground from a height of 14 or 15 feet. The latter was happily uninjured, but Caiger fell heavily on his head and side, and it was deemed advisable to convey him home at once and call in Dr. Hicks. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he was severely shaken and bruised, his helmet, which was much dented, probably saving him from more serious injuries. The Maiden Erlegh engine arrived some time after the Wokingham one, but its services could not be utilised and it was taken back again. The Wokingham Brigade returned about 1.30 a.m. There were in the rick-yard at the time—two wheat ricks, one of barley, one of vetches, one straw, one hay, and one of beans, besides which the large barn (70 feet long) and rick houses were crammed with unthreshed oats, peas and barley (off 50 acres and an excellent crop). With the exception of the small bean rick, which was saved by removal, the whole of the above was one volume of flame, rising high in the air, visible for many miles around. The cattle were, fortunately, all turned out at the time, and the pigs were safely driven across the yard.

Crowds of people congregated, many from long distances, attracted by the blaze, but all were orderly, and Superintendent Atkin, who, with one or two constables was promptly on the spot, had little or no difficulty with them. The fire was burning during the greater part of Wednesday and gradually burnt itself out.

The damage is roughly estimated at about £1,000. The buildings are insured in the Sun Office, and the corn was declared some weeks ago.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### NEW LAMP

A splendid new lamp has been erected by the Drill Hall in Denmark-street. It was lighted with gas for the first time on Thursday evening on the occasion of the County Ball.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### CHRISTMAS SHOW OF MEAT

The butchers of the town have had during the week excellent shows of Christmas meat. Messrs Goodchild and Ifould, in the Market-place, exhibited some splendid beef from animals bred and fed by Mr. Garth, Major Allfrey, and Mr. Best, Binfield; a quantity of Exmoor and Down mutton, and a large and varied display of game. Mr. Medcalf, also of the Market-place, had on view beef of excellent quality fed by this Marchioness of Downshire and Mr. J. Linders, Bridgewater. Mr. Hollis and Mr. Brant, Broad-street, Mr. Lainsbury, Peach-street, and Painter, Denmark-street, also showed a large quantity of prime meat.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

THE LIGHTING OF WOKINGHAM  
STORMY MEETING AT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Wokingham Town Council was held on Thursday evening. There were present the Deputy Mayor (Ald. T.M. Wescott), in the chair: Alderman Martin and Moorcock; and Councillors White, Knight, Cheeseman, Evans, Hall, Brant, Sale, Watts and Heelas.

Ald. Wescott said he had been asked to explain the item of £268 8s. 2½d. appearing in the balance sheet for lighting the town for the 10 months to September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1887. He disputed a statement of Councillor Hall that there had been 1,800 hours more light in the 10½ months than they had under the Gas Company. He said that from May 9<sup>th</sup> the lamps were lighted from dusk to daylight, and, taking an average lighting of 10½ hours per night during the 144 nights, this would give only 1,512 hours, reckoning the whole time. The item of £268 8s 2½d. was made up as follows:- Oil from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1886 to Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1887, £49 15s. 2d.; labour, £48 5s, 2d.; sundries, wicks, glasses, &c, £3 15s 4d; lamp-post, lanterns, and experiments, £100 17s 2d; balance due to gas company to Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1886, £65 15s 4½d.—total, £268 8s. 2½d. He (Ald. Wescott) had to report that from November 3 to December 30<sup>th</sup>, there had been expended for oil £18 19s. 6d., and for wages, £11 16s. 10d. – total 30 16s. 7d for two months, or £92 9s. 9d. for six months for oil and labour only, exclusive of wicks, glasses, and other items. As to their future lighting, Councillor Hall had promised, owing to complaints of the bad lighting, to put in larger burners, and three larger ones had been put in. Councillor Hall had reported that the cost of oil would be 1s. 2d. per week, and for 80 lamps for 12 months this would amount to £232 13s. 4d. Labour, wicks, glasses, &c. would cost at least £110 a year more. Half the lamps were cleaned and filled only every alternate day, and he did not wonder at the bad light, as half the town was in half darkness every alternate night. If the new burners were not kept cleaned and trimmed every day they would be as bad as the old ones. He moved a resolution that the lighting of the town by oil was most expensive and unsatisfactory, detrimental to the business and general welfare of the town, and a disgrace to the council.

Councillor Hall questioned the accuracy of Ald. Wescott's figures, and said the cost of 1s. 2d. for oil was during only one half of the year. He (Mr. Hall) had been taunted with stating that he could light the town with oil for £90 a year; so he could, if the original hours had been adhered to. Ald. Wescott had not given him a chance of meeting this report. The treasurer's book showed £101 for oil last year; he himself put it at £102. He maintained that the best system was to let the lighting. As to the bad lighting in January, it was for the outside public, if they had any complaint, to complain in a proper manner.

Councillor Sale and Ald. Moorcock, as members of the Lighting Committee, protested against the way the committee had been treated, and asked for a vote of confidence.

After a heated discussion,

Ald. Martin proposed and Councillor Heelas seconded a motion expressing confidence in the Lighting Committee, and requesting them to continue their duties till the end of the year. This was carried unanimously.

The council afterwards transacted some formal business.

The proceedings during the discussion of the lighting question were very stormy, several members at times speaking loudly together, and personal remarks being freely interchanged.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### FIRE BRIGADE SUPPER

The annual supper of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade was held at the Rose Hotel on Monday evening. Mr. Ifould (the Captain) took the chair and in addition to the other members of the brigade there were also present the Mayor of Wokingham, the ex-Mayor, Mr. S. Watts, and Mr. White.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### SIR EDWARD WALTER AND THE COMMISSIONAIRES

Sir Edward Walter commanding the Corps of Commissionaires, who for the last four months has been travelling through Northern India in connection with his schemes for providing employment for old soldiers, left Calcutta for Madras last Sunday. He will proceed thence to Australia. I understand, (says the Calcutta correspondent of the Times) that his enquiries are likely to have a most useful result and if he succeed in opening a prospect of work for time-expired soldiers in Australia he will have conferred a distinct benefit upon the British Army in India.

#### DEATH OF MISS FLORENCE WALTER

We learn with regret that a telegram has been received from Colombo to the effect that Miss Florence Walter, third daughter of Captain Sir Edward Walter, died after a short illness on board the P. and O. steamer, *Robilla*, on the voyage from Calcutta to Ceylon. It will be remembered that Sir Edward and Lady Walter and their daughters sailed from England in the P. and O. steamer Victoria on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October for the purpose of visiting India and Australia.

#### SERVICE OF SONG

In Wednesday a service of song was given in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Wokingham in aid of the fund for a new organ for the chapel. The service was entitled the "Wonderful Waxwork." The attendance was good.

#### BALL

The annual ball in aid of the Wokingham Langboro' Cricket Club was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The weather was unpropitious and the attendance was somewhat below the average, about 60 or 70 persons being present. The Broadmoor Quadrille Band was engaged. Refreshments were supplied by Mr. Herring of the "Welcome." Mr. James Taylor, hon. secretary, efficiently carried out the general arrangements.

#### WOKINGHAM STOCK MARKET

The market on Tuesday was well supplied with horned stock, most of which was good beef, and all was sold, indicating that the beef trade is a little better. There were buyers from Windsor, Maidenhead, Aldershot, Frimley, Reading, and Wokingham. The supply of sheep was rather short, and not equal to the demand, and the competition throughout was good.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### GRAVE OF WILLIAM AND GUNHILDA BROWN

In the churchyard of St. Paul's, Wokingham, a cross has been erected over the grave of the late William Towers Brown and Gunhilda Mary, his wife. It was designed by Mr. S.S. Stallwood, of Reading, and executed by Messrs. Wheeler. It has a hexagonal base consisting of three well-proportioned solid steps and a moulded pedestal from which springs the cross, which runs to a height of over eight feet. The material is Sicilian marble, and the design (the details of which accord with English work of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century) is marked by a simplicity of treatment which serves to bring the good proportions into pleasing prominence. The inscriptions are as follows:-

On the panel in front:-“In loving memory of WILLIAM TOWERS BROWN, aged 28, and of GUNHILDA MARY, his wife, aged 22. Married Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1887. Lost in the wreck of the S.S. Victoria off Dieppe, early in the morning of April 13, 1887.”

On the left panel:-“In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came unto them.”

On the right panel:-“In thy presence is fullness of joy.”

On the panel at the back:-“The sea gave them up within a few hours of each other on the evening of May 20, and the morning of the next day, and they were laid to rest here May 25, 1887.”

### SALE OF THE ROSE HOTEL

The old established and well known Wokingham hotel, named the “Rose,” was disposed of by auction on Tuesday, the auctioneer being Mr. James Watts. As explained by the auctioneer this old hostelry, which has been frequently patronised by Royalty, has been in the family of the proprietors for many years, and has had the reputation of being well conducted. Besides the spacious hotel, there is a large range of stabling, and other outbuildings, an excellent walled-in garden, and a plot of garden ground in the rear. The whole was put up in one lot. The biddings started at £1,300, and after a brisk competition, Mr. H.T. Roberts, solicitor, purchased the property for Mr. William Churchman, (one of the proprietors) for £8,300 which was considered a very good price. Two other properties in Broad-street and Barkham-road, Wokingham, were offered for sale, but as they did not reach the reserve price they were not sold. There was a large company present including many brewers.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

### DESCENT OF A BALLOON

A large balloon “Olympia” from the Irish exhibition in London was brought to the ground in the Nine Mile Ride on Thursday evening. The balloon contained two gentlemen and Leon Dare, who, it is said hangs by her teeth to a trapeze attached to the balloon. On Tuesday the same balloon passed at a very low altitude over the same spot and after the occupants had inquired the name of the locality it again rose, and was taken in the direction of Southampton.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

### PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCHYARD

The available burial space in the churchyard attached to the Parish Church (All Saints') has become exceedingly small, and it is supposed to again enlarge it. The “Parish Magazine” for October says that the Rector and Churchwardens have been most kindly met by General Crutchley, the owner of the adjoining property, and that there is every probability of the requisite land being obtained.

### ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S CHARITY

The trustees met in the Town Hall on Thursday to elect two Wokingham boys to receive apprentice premiums of 21*l.* each from this charity. There were several applicants. The candidates chosen were, Ernest Cousins, Rose-street, and G. Adams, Oxford-road.

#### SUPPOSED INCENDIARY FIRE

On Thursday evening, about 8.30, as Mr. Wheeler, baker, was passing up Star-lane he discovered that a hayrick standing close to the road, in a meadow late the allotment fields, the property of Mr. W. Medcalf, of Sandford Mills, Woodley, was on fire. He hurried to the Volunteer fire station in the Market-lace and gave an alarm. The Brigade was promptly on the spot, Corp. Caiger being the first to put in an appearance, and that within two minutes of the call. The Brigade, under the Captain (Mr. Ifould) proceeded to the spot, and although they possess upwards of 1,300 feet of hose nothing could be done to extinguish the flames, as the nearest water available was 800 yards distant. By this time a valuable rick of 1887 hay, standing beside the other, and worth about £7 per ton, had caught, and both ricks burned fiercely, the flames being discernable for miles around, attracting to the spot a large number of people.

The ricks together comprised upwards of 40 tons, and they were insured in the Royal Farmers' Insurance Office, through Mr. Goatley's agency. The position from which the fire started undoubtedly marks it as the work of an incendiary. A reward of £10 has been offered by Mr. Medcalf for the discovery of the offender, or offenders. The total value of the two ricks exceeded £200. Yesterday, at mid-day, they were still burning.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### WOKINGHAM INSTITUTE

A successful concert was given in the Town Hall on Wednesday, under the management of a sub committee of the Institute. An excellent programme of the instrumental and vocal music was provided. Miss Nellie Heron and Miss Ada Roberts were encored for their songs, as were also the Apollo (Reading) Quartet. Mr. Ferdinand Ripon played a violin solo with mush skill, and joined with Miss Churchman in a duet (piano and violin). The latter also played a piano duet with Miss Cave. Among others who took part in the programme were Miss Daisy Churchman (who accompanied throughout), and Messrs. Bilson, J.C. Allen, A.W. Knill, and H. Minchin.

#### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

On Tuesday night, Mrs. Baker's Brewery at Wokingham was completely destroyed by fire. The outbreak was discovered by Miss Davis, a barmaid to Mrs. Baker, as she was closing the back door at 111 pm. After shutting up the bar. She saw flames issuing from the brewery, a tall building some distance up the yard, and immediately called the Manager, who had gone to bed. He came down at once and gave an alarm, and the Fire Brigade were soon in attendance. After some little difficulty they got to work, and eventually succeeded in confining the fire to the brewery portion of the premises, but they were unable to entirely subdue the flames till the contents, and the upper wooden walls of the four rooms, one above the other, constituted the brewery, were completely destroyed.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from a boiler, or from the over-heating of a flue. Mr. O'Connor, Inland Revenue officer was on the premises at 6.30

pm. The workmen had then gone home and all appeared safe, and nobody is known to have afterwards visited the premises. The buildings are insured in the County Fire Office.

#### FIRE BRIGADE DINNER

On Monday evening the members of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire brigade and the Honorary Town Constables, with a few friends, were entertained by the Mayor at dinner at the Bush hotel.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### THE WELLINGTON BREWERY

This property was submitted by auction at the Mart?? London, on Wednesday, by Mr. Tabor, of Reading. There was a large attendance of brewers and others. Biddings commenced at £10,000, and after a spirited competition the property was purchased by Mr. Frederick Headington at £16,150.

1889

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March

#### FORMATION OF A CYCLING CLUB

It has been decided to form a Cycling Club for Wokingham. The members intend to arrange runs on Wednesday evenings during the summer. Mr. L.C. Ducrocq, was elected Hon. Secretary pro tem.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June

#### FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

The members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade competed in a contest with 37 other fire brigades on the Leytonstone Cricket Ground at Leyton, Essex, on Monday. The men who were under the command of Mr. E. Ifould, Captain, acquitted themselves very creditably, obtaining three third prizes, viz, in the single-man competition (Corporal Caiger), in the four-man drill, and in the six-man drill. In the four-man drill the work was done in 35 seconds, 2½ seconds, under any other brigade in the ground; but five seconds were added for two loose clips.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

#### LUCAS HOSPITAL-CHAPEL GREEN

The Rev. James Stratton M.A. of Worcester College, Oxford has been appointed master of this institution, in succession to the Rev. E. Harwood, deceased.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

Several members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade competed in the contest open to all England, at Southampton on Monday. Nearly 30 brigades entered for the competition. Corporal Caiger took the second prize in the one-man drill. In the three-man drill Wokingham stood fourth, and in the six-man drill 5<sup>th</sup>, the latter drill in consequence of an accident, not taking place till after 9 p.m. Considering several of the Wokingham team were young members who had never taken part in any competitions before, the success of the Brigade does them credit.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### WOKINGHAM CYCLIST CLUB

This club held their first illuminated ride on Wednesday last, when notwithstanding, the unfavourable weather, twenty machines met at the Rose Hotel and paraded the principal streets captained by Mr. A. Heelas. The machines were all decked out with Chinese lanterns and fairy lights &c., and some of the devices were extremely good. A large number of people assembled in the streets to see the procession and it was considered a great success.

The members and friends adjourned at the closing of the ride to the Rose Hotel, where a short smoking concert took place. Great credit is due to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L.C. Ducrocq, who carried out the arrangements.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

Captain Henry Allfrey married Kathleen, second daughter of Mr. Sydney Hankey of Heathlands.

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

The monthly meeting of the Town Council was held at Wokingham on Thursday evening, Ald. Wescott presiding. The chief business related to the town's lighting. A letter was read from the Gas Company, offering to supply gas for public lighting for £2 7s 6d, per lamp per annum, including gas, lighting and cleaning; all lamps to be alight in winter from dusk till midnight, and 17 also to daylight; in summer 17 lamps to burn from dusk till daylight. After some discussion, in the course of which the Deputy Mayor remarked that a favourable opportunity presented itself of doing away with the ill-feeling the lighting question had caused, the letter was referred to the Lighting Committee to report to a special Council meeting. Tenders for the supply of 70 barrels of oil were opened, and were as follows:-A.E. Hussey, at 7d. a gallon; M. Drake 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., Barnes & Son 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>., R. Herring 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., and W. Howard 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>., per gallon. These were also referred to the Lighting Committee to report on at the same time.

#### CRICKET AT BUCKHURST

Matches were played at Buckhurst on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. At the first match the score was-Excelsior Club-47 and 34. Buckhurst, 36 and 48. On Monday the Reading Police played Buckhurst, the scores being-Police, 82 and 45. Buckhurst, 209, E.F. Chapman making 54, and W. Maurice 53 (not out). On Tuesday the Oxford City Club was easily defeated, Buckhurst scoring 200, and the Oxford club 93. Prince Christian Victor played for Buckhurst, scoring 36, and P. Pope made 34, and P. Dougal 30.

#### BERKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY ANNUAL FETE

The annual fete of the local branch of the Berks Friendly Society was held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, in a large meadow abutting on the Finchampstead-road, which was lent by Mr. T.M. Wescott (Deputy Mayor), the energetic Chairman of the Society. The members assembled at their club-room at noon, and after parading the town, led by the Wokingham Town Band, proceeded to the meadow. The amusements consisted of races and other athletic competitions for numerous prizes in kind, by the tradesmen of the town and friends of the Society; shooting galleries, steam circus, &c. One of the competitions which evoked much interest was the tug-of-war in which the members eventually succeeded in worsting their opponents, the visitors. Dancing was provided for and extensively patronised, Mr. A. Burrett proving a genial and efficient M.C.

The afternoon was beautifully fine, and a very large number of visitors passed the gate, the fete altogether being one of the most successful of its kind held in the locality this season. The prizes won in the athletic sports were distributed by Mr. Wescott in the evening. The committee consisted of Mr. H.D. Wigg (hon. Sec) and Messrs. Butler, Collyer, Cordrey, Hamilton, and Burrett, and they deserve great credit for their efficient arrangements and excellent management.

#### THUNDERSTORM AND NARROW ESCAPE

In common with most places in the centre and southern counties Wokingham was visited with a severe thunderstorm on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August. The thunder which was accompanied with heavy rain and vivid lightning, was heaviest between 4 and 5 p.m. But little serious damage appears to have been done in the neighbourhood except to a house in the Waterloo-road, the property of Mr. James Searle, and tenanted by himself and family. Mrs. Searle had a narrow escape; she was standing at the back door when a neighbour, Mrs. Clacy, came in and the two went into the kitchen together. Whilst there a flash of lightning apparently struck the chimney, casting down a number of bricks, and taking off several of the ridge tiles. The electric current passed down the chimney, dislodging the kettle and fire irons, passed through the doorway and across the kitchen, over the very spot where Mrs. Searle had been standing a few moments before, and found its way out through a brick wall near the corner of the room. In its course it also damaged a bath, the water pipe and the brickwork. It appears that same or a prior flash also struck the bedroom above, doing considerable damage and breaking two panes of glass; it also destroyed some tools and paper in a shed against the wall. The shock to the nerves of both women who witnessed the catastrophe and so narrowly escaped injury was severe, and although they evinced considerable presence of mind, it was some time before they recovered from the shock.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### THE LIGHTING QUESTION

A special meeting of the Wokingham Town Council, to consider a report of the Lighting Committee, and other matters, was held on Thursday (12<sup>th</sup> Sept.), at the Council Chamber. There were present Ald. Wescott, the Ex-Mayor, who presided; Ald. Moorcock, councillors Sale Heron, Churchman, Watts, Evans, Mower, Hall, White, and Stone.

#### LIGHTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

This committee reported that they had most carefully considered the offer of the Gas Company, and as a result desired to place before the Council the following figures. The Gas Company's offer was to supply 91 lamps, at 47s. 6d. per lamp, per year, amounting to £216 2s. 6d., all to be lighted, and 74 to be kept up to midnight only, and the other 17 to be left burning till daylight during October, November, December, January, February, and March, and 17 to be lighted and to be left burning till daylight during the summer months. That meant an average loss of six hours per night on 74 lamps for the six winter months. One penny per lamp per night meant 6s. 2d. per day, or for the six months £55 10s. For the summer months the offer of the Gas Company, for 17 lamps, from sunset to sunrise, are compared with the present system, showed a marked deficiency, which meant a loss of £20 5s. on the six months. The amount, considering all things, in favour of the present mode of lighting they estimated at £117 5s. 10d. In the face of these figures the committee could do no other than recommend



a continuance of the oil lighting, and they proposed that Mr. Herring's tender for oil should be accepted.

Mr. Watts remarked that he calculated the difference between the cost of a gas lamp, and the cost of an oil lamp was 8s. 9d. It was the opinion of a large number of owners of property and consumers of gas in the town, that the streets were better lighted by gas than by oil, and though it cost more they would prefer to have that system.

Mr. Hall (chairman of the committee) said it was an error to suppose there was only a difference of 8s. 9d. in the two lamps, as the Gas Company proposed to light the lamps a less number of hours than was the case at present. He maintained that under the present system they saved £100 a year.

The Ex-Mayor said he was sure the share-holders of the Gas Company would meet the town fairly in this matter. A great deal of ill-feeling had been caused over this question, and he would do all in his power to get it settled.

Mr. Watts moved and Mr. Churchman seconded the following resolution:-“That an enquiry be made of the Gas Company whether they will light the present lamps of the town for the same number of hours, as during the past year, as mentioned in the Lighting Committee's report, for the sum of £216 2s. 6d., and that their reply be sent in by Saturday morning next (the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.) In the event of non-compliance or non-acceptance by the Gas Committee, to promptly close the contract for oil.

The proposition was carried, seven voting for, and two (Ald. Moorcock and Mr. Sale) against it.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sep

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE TOWN

At a special meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday, the Lighting Committee presented a report which stated that a letter had been received from the Gas Company offering to light the lamps on the terms of the proposal by the resolution passed at the council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The report was unanimously adopted.

Other matters relating to the main roads and finance were discussed but the report must be deferred.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

#### NEW TRAIN

A new train from Reading, calling at all stations, to Aldershot Camp has been put on the South Eastern Railway. This train, which commenced running on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month leaves Reading at 10.30.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### A SWIMMING BATH FOR WOKINGHAM

At the Mayor's Banquet on Saturday evening, the Mayor was pressed to take up the matter of providing a swimming bath for Wokingham during his year of office. His promise to consider the matter has been received with pleasure, and the inhabitants, especially those of the younger generation, are looking forward with eagerness to the time when the long talked of Swimming-bath shall be a reality in the town. The present Mayor has shown his energy in many other ways, and there is no doubt that in any effort he may make to facilitate the practice of the useful art of swimming, he would have the cordial sympathy and assistance of the townspeople.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1889

## FORMATION OF A SPARROW CLUB

At a well-attended meeting of agriculturalists and others held last week at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, under the presiding of Mr. H. Lane, Evendons, it was decided to form a Sparrow Club for the neighbourhood in the interests of agriculture generally. It was resolved to offer 4½d. per dozen during the ensuing winter for sparrows and other birds destructive to crops.

1890

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

### DEATH OF EX-SUPERINTENDENT MILLARD

Mr. Millard, who was for about twelve years Superintendent of Police at Wokingham, and who retired on a pension two years ago died at Paiswick, Gloucestershire, his native village, on Friday December the 27<sup>th</sup> at the age of sixty-six. Mr. Millard was twice married, the second time to Mrs. Drewett, the widow of Sergeant Drewett of the Berks. Constabulary, who was murdered near Hungerford in 1879. He leaves a large family.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

### WOKINGHAM MARKET

At the Wokingham Market on Tuesday, in consequence of the restrictions as to the removal of beasts from Hants, there was a scanty supply of beef. Everything in the shape of beasts, hogs, porkers, and calves, changed hands.

### VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE ENTERTAINMENT

The annual entertainment in aid of the funds of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade was given in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. Mr. C.T. Murdoch, M.P., was to have presided, but was unfortunately unable to be present on account of the illness of his daughter, Miss Evelyn Murdoch. His place was, however, well filled by his son, Mr. E. Murdoch. The large room was crowded, the audience including the Marchioness of Downshire, Mrs. Wilkie, Misses Murdoch, Misses Ellison, Mrs. Gower, Major Thompson, Misses Rickman, Mr., Mrs., and Misses Garrard, Captain Gregory, Rev. E. Sturges, Rev. A. and Mrs Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Cammell, Miss Campbell, Rev. G.E. De Vitre, the Mayor of Wokingham, Ald. T.M. Wescott, & c.

The programme was one of the best of its kind provided in the town for some years, and every item was efficiently executed. Mrs. Clare Wright's fine voice was modulated with great effect, her efforts being received with warm applause. Mr. Eustace Ponsonby's musical sketches caused great merriment, and it was generally hoped that this would not be his last appearance in the town. Mr. Izard's clever piano solos gained well-earned and hearty recognition. Mr. H.G. Powell and Mr. E.H. Moss in the comic element were also well received. Miss Daisy Churchman acted as accompanist. Before the last piece the Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted, enlarged the efficiency of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and contended that the splendid gathering was an acknowledgment of their worth and merit. The Captain (Mr. E. Ifould) thanked the Chairman and the company for the hearty support they had rendered his Brigade. We are glad to say that the entertainment will, financially, be a great success. The following was the full programme:-

Piano and violin duet, "Reverie" Mrs. Wilkie and Miss Violet Murdoch,

Song, "The Messago" (Blumenthal)	Mr. W. Bonny,
Song, "A Lover and his Lass"	Mrs. Angel Smith,
Song (humerous)	Mr. E.H. Moss,
Piano solo, "Andante and Rondo Capriccio	Mr. Alfred E. Izard A.R.A.M.,
Song, "My Switzer Love" (Eckert),	Mrs. Clare Wright R.A.M.,
Song, "The Star of Bethlehem" (S. Adams),	Mr. S. Isom,
Song, "The Two Marionettes" Miss Gertrude Stead,	
Cornet solo, "The Lost Chord," Mr. Scott, 1st Vol. Batt. Royal Fusiliers,	
Recitation (in character), "The C'rrect Card"-A racing Lyric, Mr. H.G. Powell,	
Musical sketch	Mr. Eustace Ponsonby,
Song, "A Bunch of Cowslips" (Wakefield), Mrs. Clare Wright,	
Song, "My Sweetheart When a Boy" (Morgan),	Mr. Bonny,
Piano solo "Rigoletto" (F. Liszt), Mr. A.E. Izard A.R.A.M.,	
Recitation (humorous)	Mr. R.H. Moss,
Song, "The Old and the Young Marie" (Cowen),	Mr. Sydney Isom,
Song, "Two Spoons" (A.J. Caldicott),	Miss Gertrude Stead,
Cornet solo, "When Other Lips" (Balfe)	Mr. Scott,
Song "My Love has gone a Sailing"	Mrs. Angel Smith,
	"God Save the Queen."

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The excellent entertainment given by the members of the Brigade on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. which was so well patronised has been the means of adding £17 to the Accidental Insurance Fund. Unfortunately the Brigade has this week sustained a severe loss in the sad death of Mr. Albert Burrett one of its youngest and most promising members. He was 24 years of age.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June

#### THE GARDENS AT BEARWOOD

Owing to the kindness of Mr. Walter, the public have again the privilege of inspecting the beautiful gardens at Bearwood, and many persons have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded of seeing some of the best-kept grounds in this part of the country. The recent rains have added materially to the appearance of the place, which is now in the pink of perfection. Bearwood at any time of the year is a source of attraction, but never perhaps has Mr. Walter's beautiful demesne looked more charming than at the present time. Immense clumps of rhododendrons, of various colours, are in full bloom, while other flowers too numerous to mention are looking lovely, the rare and stately trees being most attractive. The kalmias (following on the rhododendrons), the chief feature of the pleasure grounds, will be at their best next week. As usual the realistic fernery, with its waterfall, &c., is very beautiful, and has been greatly admired by numerous visitors. The condition of the lawns, grounds, and gardens reflects the highest credit upon Mr. Tegg, the head gardener.

On Saturday evening the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory were by kind permission of the Re. J.T. Brown thrown open to the public. The Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. W.J. Allen, was in attendance.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Aug.

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The House Numbering Committee presented its report and a discussion followed as to the better plan of numbering houses consecutively and ignoring divisions into terraces and villas &c., or numbering the various terraces, places &c., separately. It was decided to invite the opinion of the Postmaster-in-charge (Mr. Lush) in the matter.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

#### EASTHAMPSTEAD PARK

The Marchioness of Downshire and her son have returned to Easthampstead Park from Ireland. The young Marquis's health is, we are glad to hear, much improved, but he will leave England from New Zealand at the end of this present month as if it is thought a long sea voyage will be very beneficial to him. Lord and Lady Arthur Hill are now residing at Hillsborough, county Down.

#### THE LIGHTING QUESTION

Much of the town has been lighted with gas during the week. The light is exceedingly good and appears to give general satisfaction.

#### A SAD BEREAVEMENT

Mr. R. Kemp, of Finchampstead, the well-known Martini Henry Volunteer marksman, has sustained a very sad bereavement, having lost both his wife and daughter after only a few days' illness from diphtheria. Mrs. Kemp was buried on Thursday, and the daughter died the same day whilst the mother's funeral was taking place.

#### THE ALLOTMENTS QUESTION

Mr. Hall said that the allotments question has been on hand for seven months and no progress appeared to have been made. Many of the labourers had now been turned out of their allotments, and it was a serious matter for them if other land could not be soon obtained.

Mr. Sale said land was obtainable on both sides of the town, and if the rent was not so prohibitive steps should be taken to obtain it.

It was stated that the rent asked for suitable land near the town was £4 per acre.

Mr. Hall said Mr. H. Lane had offered land near Luckley-park for £2 per acre, but it was a long distance off, especially for those the opposite side of the town. They had made efforts to obtain suitable ground and had failed, and the sooner the applicants were made aware of the fact the better. They could then move in the matter themselves.

Eventually the following resolution moved by Mr. Sale, and seconded by Mr. Hall, was unanimously carried:-“That the efforts of the Council to obtain land for allotments near the town at a moderate rental proving ineffectual, the applicants be informed of the fact.

1891

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
THE PROPOSED MAYOR'S CHAIN

The question of purchasing a chain of office for the Mayor was freely discussed and it was agreed that subscriptions should be obtained towards that object and that a committee, consisting of members of the Council in favour of the idea should be formed in order to carry out the wish of the majority of the Council.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE NEW STEAM FIRE ENGINE

The new steam fire engine expressly built for the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade by Merryweather & Son, of London will arrive her next Tuesday, and the Rev. J. T. Brown has kindly placed the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory at the disposal of the brigade and its subscribers. Mrs. C.T. Murdoch will name the new steamer.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE NEW STEAM FIRE ENGINE

Through the kindness of the Rev. J.T. Brown, the members of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade were enabled to test the actual working of the new steam fire engine. In the presence of the subscribers and friends at the beautiful grounds of St. Paul's Rectory. The cost of the new engine complete is £433. The whole of which sum was entirely raised by public subscription the gentry of the neighbourhood contributing in most cases liberally towards it. In addition to the purchase of the steamer, about 600 feet of additional hose (making over 2,000 feet belonging to the brigade) was purchased and considerable alterations and improvements were effected at the engine-house.

Wokingham now possesses a large and powerful fire engine capable of throwing water 150 feet high, and of thirty horse power, the working pressure being 100 lbs. Four distinct hose jets can be used, as was shown at the trial of the engine on Tuesday, with the new steamer.

There is also the large manual engine, built in 1878, by Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, at the cost of £170., and the old manual which was formerly under the control of the police, and which might render useful service. Previous to the christening of the new steamer some friendly competitions upon the large manual engine were gone through, viz., "One man drill," "Two men dry drill," and "Four men dry drill." Two sets of each were gone through by members of the local brigade.

The engine was christened by Mrs. Murdoch, wife of the member for Reading, the operation being performed by means of a bottle of champagne suspended from the footboard and which when swung broke upon the splinter bar. Mr. E. Murdoch, on behalf of his mother, spoke of the honour and pleasure it gave Mrs. Murdoch to name the engine and alluded in flattering terms to the usefulness, etc., of the local brigade and said that now they possessed the large and powerful steamer, their former actions would even be surpassed. (Cheers.) The covering of the name-plate upon the footboard was removed and showed the name "Alert," which caused great cheering. A bouquet, the gift of Mrs. Heffer of the Terrace, to the brigade for the purpose was presented to Mrs. Murdoch by Miss Lilian Ifould, youngest daughter of the captain of the brigade.

The capabilities of the engine were tested and gave every satisfaction, and the full working power of the engine (100 lbs.), was raised in exactly eight minutes after the fire was lighted. The various trials lasted for more than half an hour and were witnessed by a large company including the *élite* of the neighbourhood, and the pond in the Rectory grounds was used to supply the water. The height of the jets thrown exceeded that of the tallest elm and other trees in the grounds.

At the conclusion of the trials the company assembled upon the lawn, and Mr. S.A. Hankey thanked the Rector of St. Paul's and Mrs. Brown for throwing the grounds open to the subscribers and the Fire Brigade. (cheers.)-. The Rev. J.T. Brown, on behalf of Mrs. Brown and himself expressed the pleasure it afforded him to welcome the company present.

The Mayor of Wokingham (Ald. D. N. Heron), proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the brigade, and Mr. E. Ifould, the captain, replied.

Mr. H. E. Hall (hon.sec. of the brigade) thanked Mrs. Murdoch for her attendance and the naming of the new steam engine. Three cheers were given for the Rev. J. T. and Mrs. Brown, for the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and a similar compliment was paid to Mrs. Murdoch. The Rev. J.T. Brown kindly provided refreshments in the house for subscribers and friends. The Wokingham Town Band (under Mr. W.J. Allen) played selections on the lawn during the evening, and also headed the procession of engines which paraded the town during the afternoon.

The new steam engine is capable of delivering 300 gallons per minute, and is fitted with all the latest improvements. It has a very smart appearance, and on the woodwork is painted the name of the brigade.

The Maiden Erlegh Brigade (under Mr. Stallworthy) and the Frimley, Camberley, and York Town Brigade (under the command of Mr. J. Moss), were present during the trials of the new engine.

Engineer Caiger will act as engineer of the new engine, and Fireman Seward and Hughes as deputy-engineers. The engineer sent from Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, the makers, remained this week in order to give practical instruction.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday last being the anniversary of the accession of her Majesty, flags floated from the Town Hall and Drill Hall, and other places in the town.

#### FIRE AT BEARWOOD

On Tuesday morning, between five and six, the Volunteer Fire Brigade received a telephonic message from Bearwood mansion asking them to attend as a fire had been discovered. The new steam engine was got out and the men were in readiness to start, when another message was received by telephone saying that their services would not be required. The engine was put back, the horses were unharnessed, and some of the firemen had gone away, when a third message arrived asking the brigade to come as quickly as possible. On arriving at Bearwood they found that the engine shed, adjoining the mansion, was on fire at the upper part. The steamer soon however extinguished the flames, and the fire was confined to the building which was brick built and slated, and contained a quantity of coal, which had probably become heated, causing spontaneous combustion. Mr. Walter and family were away from Bearwood at the time.

This is the first call the brigade has received since the new steamer has been purchased, and the members were highly pleased with the working of it. The mansion at Bearwood has telephonic communication with the Wokingham Post Office, as a great saving of time was affected in sending the message. The various fire extinguishing appliances used by the employees previous to the arrival of the brigade proved, it is said, useless.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### FIRE AT WEST COURT

On Monday morning about 2.25 am alarm was given at the Volunteer Fire Brigade station that a fire had broken out at West Court, Finchampstead, the residence of the Rev. Alan Buchanan. On the arrival of the Brigade, it was found that the library, also used as a smoking room, was in flames, but by the efforts of the brigade the fire was soon got out. Unfortunately a valuable panelled oak mantel piece, worth about £250 (£750??) was destroyed, the wall panelling, floor, and carpet, partly burned, and the fixtures seriously injured by the heat and smoke. The furniture was saved, the police and the men servants removing some of it before the arrival of the fire brigade.

The building, which is the property of the Rev. E. St. John, Rector of Finchampstead, is insured in the Atlas Fire Office and the furniture in the Sun Office. The brigade reached home at half past six.

#### THE CORPORATION PICTURES

Councillor Powell stated that the pictures sent to Messrs. Ryman & Co. Oxford for cleaning and renovation had been returned.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### PROMENADE CONCERT

The second illuminated promenade concert in connection with the Wokingham Town Band took place at the "Woodlands" near the Reading Road on Wednesday by permission of Mr. R. Sanderson. The grounds were well illuminated especially the tennis court where the dancing took place and there was a good number of visitors. The lighting was under the management of Mr. R. Herring and the band which was under the direction of Mr. Allen, played selections during the evenings. Mr. Mills was Master of ceremonies of the dancing.

1892

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THR HUNTING OF TAME DEER

The following memorial is being signed in Reading, praying that the "Royal Buck Hounds" may be abolished, and the funds devoted to their support, may be otherwise applied:--

To Her Most Gracious Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA,

The memorial of the undersigned, your Majesty's loyal subjects sheweth:-

That your Majesty's Memorialists view with regret the State maintenance in your Majesty's name of a sport known as the "Queen's Hunt," in the course of which great suffering is entailed upon the deer employed as quarry.

That the deer so hunted are practically domesticated animals having been reared and tended in Windsor Park.

That your Majesty's memorialists humbly regard the hunting of these animals as cruel, and calculated to make the community unfeeling towards dumb creatures.

Your Majesty's memorialists therefore most humbly pray that the hunt may cease to receive your Majesty's countenance, and that the funds devoted to its support may be otherwise applied.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, it is understood, are taking the subject into consideration.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July

#### BAND CONTEST

A Grand Band Contest took place on Wednesday, under the distinguished patronage of Lord and Lady Arthur Hill, Sir Arthur and Lady Hayter, Sir George Russell, Bart., M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch and other ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. Nicholson kindly permitted the contest to take place in Matthew's Green Park. The Wokingham Town Band took this means of celebrating their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Prizes to the amount of £40 were offered to competing Bands, and eight Bands entered. For various reasons four of the bands were unable to compete, and the contest took place between: 1, Redhill Town Band (24 performers), conducted by Mr. W. Bashford; 2, Crowthorne Band (16 performers), conducted by Mr. T. Taylor; 3, Staines Town Band (18 performers), conducted by Mr. J. Fane; 4, Reading Temperance Band (24 performers), conducted by Mr. W. Farr. This test piece was "The Champion," overture by Hartmann.

The judge was Mr. Warwick Williams, conductor of the London Military Band. The proceedings commenced in the Market-place with a Quickstep Contest. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize was awarded to the Reading Temperance Band, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Crowthorne Band. For the Grand Contest, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £8 10s. in money and a cornet, specially made for the contest, was awarded to the Reading Temperance Band. The second prize of £2 10s. in money and a trombone fell to the Staines Town Band. Crowthorne Band secured the third prize of £5 5s. The prizes were distributed on the lawn at Matthew's Green by Lady Russell. Votes of thanks were proposed by the Mayor (Mr. T.W. Heelas), to Lady Russell and to Mrs. Nicholson.

Dancing was indulged in after the contest. Mrs. Nicholson entertained a large number of friends on the lawn.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### TOWN LIGHTING

The lighting of the town will after this week be undertaken by the Corporation, Mr. Hall's tender having expired. A petition has been numerously signed by the ratepayers protesting against the action of the Council with regard to the tender for oil used in the lighting of the town lamps.

#### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> WOKINGHAM COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

A meeting in connection with this Brigade was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday evening, by kind permission of the Mayor (Mr. T. Heelas). Amongst those present were the Rev. J.T. Brown, Rural Dean and President of the Brigade, in the chair, the Mayor, Alderman D.N. Heron, Councillor Binnie, Mr. C.S.S. Brown, Mr. W. J. Gotelee, Capt. Penton Thompson, R.A. &c. The company included several ladies.

Capt. The Rev. E.C. Leslie gave some account of the Brigade and its work. He said the company was inaugurated in the Terrace Room on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1891, at a meeting for boys only, when the object of the Brigade was explained and 80 recruits joined. In accordance with the rules six preliminary drills were held. The numbers soon increased, and reached on the occasion of the sixth drill 84. application was then made to headquarters to enrol the company, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> the company was duly enrolled as the 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham. An annual subscription of 1s. per boy had the effect of reducing the company to more manageable proportions. Its full strength was 50. The numbers at present were 44, and there were nine recruits under instruction. Caps and belts were served out on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the company was soon able to appear in public. Its progress had been very marked during the present year, and Capt. J.H.



Cooper, of the 1<sup>st</sup> V.B. Royal Berks Regiment, who kindly acted as inspecting officer in June, expressed himself highly pleased with the drill, discipline and appearance of the boys when on parade. This excellent result was due to the careful teaching of the Instructor, Mr. James McEwan, who has taken a deep interest in the movement from its commencement. Officers and boys united in regretting that he no longer resided in Wokingham, but would be glad to know that he still retains his connection with the company as Lieutenant. They were fortunate in having secured a capital successor in Mr. H. Harvey, Col-Sergt. Of 1<sup>st</sup> V.B. Royal Berks Regiment, L Company. The present officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Boys' Brigade were—President, Rev. J.T. Brown; Captain, Rev. E.C. Leslie; Lieutenant, Capt Penton Thompson, R.A.; Messrs E.D. Heelas, J. McEwan, and H. Harvey.

The objects of the Brigade were the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of reverence and discipline, self-respect, and all which tends towards true Christian manliness. Opportunities had not been lost of imparting good advice, and there had been several church parades at St. Paul's Church, and one at All Saints' in conjunction with the Volunteers. Valuable instruction had been given in a selected class in the shape of lectures on "First Aid to the Wounded," by Mr. Ernest Ward, M.R.C.S., who hoped that his pupils would shortly be fit for examination and obtain the privilege of wearing the badges of the St. John Ambulance Association. The friends of the Brigade were many, and the company had paraded at the Beeches, St. Paul's Rectory, and Matthew's Green by invitation. There had been several interesting gatherings during the past season, including an entertainment by conjuring, &c., by Professor Besoni, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, an entertainment at the Town Hall on March 1<sup>st</sup>, when a select squad performed some musical drills, and on September 1<sup>st</sup> an excursion in a steam launch to Cookham. The kindness of their many friends reached its climax at the Grand Jumble Sale held in the grounds of the Holt (by kind permission of the Mayor of Reading), when, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Mrs. Gotelee, a large staff of ladies, the sum of £45 was realised, which enabled them to present a satisfactory balance sheet adjusted by the kindness of Mr. E. Stephenson, and showed a surplus of £26.

The President then presented a pair of framed photographs to Mr. McEwan of the boys in their uniforms, the photographs being the gifts of the boys.

Mr. McEwan suitably acknowledged the gift.

The applause of the boys testified to the popularity of their late instructor.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Captain for his interest in the Brigade, to Mr. Ernest Ward for his lectures, and to the Mayor for the use of the Town Hall. After the singing of a hymn the boys were drilled in the body of the hall by Mr. H. Harvey.

Major A.F. Walter has kindly granted the use of the Drill Hall to the Company during the coming season.

#### SERIOUS MAIL CART ACCIDENT

The horses belonging to Mr. Targett, of Reading, attached to the mail cart which runs between Bracknell and Reading bolted early on Monday morning from the Wokingham Post Office. On reaching the end of Broad-street they dashed into the iron railings in front of the house occupied by Miss Morres. One of the horses was pierced by a piece of iron which when withdrawn measured upwards of two feet in length. The poor animal died a very short time afterwards. The other horse was only slightly injured in the head. The pole of the cart pierced the wall, and the end was visible in the sitting-room of the house.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### TOWN COUNCIL

Ald. Heron stated that he had about £75 in hand towards purchasing a chain for the Mayor.

#### SCIENCE & ART CLASSES

The Science and Art Classes arranged by the Corporation commenced at the Terrace Room on Tuesday evening. About 20 students have joined.

#### ENTERTAINMENT IN CHURCH ROOM

Mr. Seward commenced his Saturday night entertainments on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a good attendance, and a varied programme was listened to with evident interest. Mr. Seward took the chair.

#### HORSE ACCIDENTS

A young horse belonging to Mr. Palmer bolted in the Station-road on Tuesday afternoon. A lamppost was knocked down and the railings near the railway gates were smashed. Both horse and cart were turned over.

Frederick Fielder, a horse dealer, met with a serious accident in the Market-place on Tuesday. The horse, which he was riding, reared and fell with him. He received a severe cut in the temple, and was conveyed in an insensible state to the police-station, and was attended by Dr. Thomas. He was subsequently taken to the hospital at Reading.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### BOYS' BRIGADE

The boys of this excellent institution are now equipped with rifles and are making rapid progress with their drills. At the parade on Monday night Sergeant W. Priest was promoted to the rank of Colour-Sergeant of the Wokingham Company.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

#### THE ROYAL STAG HUNT

Her Majesty's Buck-hounds met in the Market-place on Friday morning in last week. The County Ball having been held on the previous night, there was a large number of followers present. The deer was uncarted in a meadow belonging to Mr. R. Green, and made at once for the direction Binfield. Eventually it turned and ran back to Wokingham, and crossing the playground St. Paul's Schools made for the Station and was eventually captured near the Market-place. During the hunt Mr. Garrard, of the White House, was thrown from the horse and sustained a broken collar bone and a bruised shoulder.

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council met on Thursday when the reports of the Lighting and Survey Committees were adopted.

Dr. Ashby, the medical officer, in his report suggested proceedings should be taken against the owners of properties in the Market-place (No. 14) and Rose-street (Nos. 60 and 62) to compel them to close polluted wells, and this was agreed to.

A motion was brought forward approving the suggestion to hold a Dairy School at Wokingham after Christmas in accordance with a letter received from the secretary of the Berkshire Dairy Schools. A fuller account of the proceedings is reserved for next week.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

#### SOIRÉE

A most successful soiree was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday in aid of the British School funds. It was opened by the Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. W. White), who was supported by the Rev. James Cave. At frequent intervals vocal and instrumental music and handbell ringing were given, and Mr. H.G. Powell gave a musical sketch entitled, "Hypnotism," with illustrations on a subject (Mr. G. Belcher), which created great amusement. In the ante-chamber two sets of effective *tableaux vivante* were given at intervals. Light refreshments were supplied at moderate prices. There was a special attraction in the Bank Room. Mr. G. T. Phillips (member of the British Ornithologists' Union) very kindly lent and personally superintended his valuable collection of 5,000 eggs of local interest. The rooms were crowded, and the arrangements were carried out in an admirable manner.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### WOKINGHAM CLUB

The Wokingham Club with which is amalgamated the Cyclists' Club and the Working Men's Club, opened their new Club Rooms on Monday. Mr. C.T. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, declared the club opened, and the Mayor (Mr. W. White) then presented Mr. Murdoch, on behalf of the club, with his photograph enlarged. Mr. Murdoch suitably replied. The Mayor then presented an enlarged photograph of Mr. L.G. Ducrocq, the energetic hon. Secretary, to Mrs. Ducrocq, the former being absent through illness. At the request of Mrs. Ducrocq the Rev. J. Franklen-Llewelyn returned thanks in an excellent speech. The rev. gentleman also read an extract from a letter he had received from Mr. Ducrocq thanking them for the present and re-calling the history of the club since its foundation nearly three years ago. Their membership this year was 114 and they were supplied with 22 papers and magazines. Mr. Ducrocq thanked Mr. Faltham for his ably assistance and management and also the donors. During the evening refreshments were served by Mrs. Chambers. A game of billiards was played between the Mayor and Mr. Murdoch, the latter winning by 7 points.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### DEATH OF THE REV. G.E.D. DE VITRÉ

We regret to record the death of the Rev. G.E.D. De Vitré of Keeppatch, Wokingham, which occurred on Saturday afternoon. The reverend gentleman was well-known for his neighbourliness, his geniality and generosity

The funeral took place at All saints' Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon.

1893

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### DEATH OF WILLIAM CHAMBERS

Mr. William Chambers, confectioner, of the Market-place died on Tuesday from a complication of diseases after a long and painful illness. He was Sergeant-at-Mace for 25 years and it is worthy of note that this office has been held by one or other of the same family for upwards of a hundred years. He was also hall keeper and toll collector.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

We are pleased to learn that the Marquis of Downshire has become a member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WILLIAM CHAMBERS' DUTIES

The Mayor stated that he had received several letters with regard to the election of hall keeper etc which he had not opened. Councillors Powell and Ifould were of the opinion that applications should be invited by advertisement. An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Phillips that an advertisement be put in the local paper announcing the vacancy for a Hall Keeper and Collector of Market Tolls and that the office of Mace Bearer be the gift of the Mayor for the time being. This was agreed.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March

Alderman Heron procured a chain for the Mayor and that a robe had been ordered.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March

#### RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT

A railway signalling box is in course of erection at the station (S.E.R.) when the signals will be worked upon improved principles.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March

#### BERKSHIRE DAIRY SCHOOLS

A Dairy School under the auspices of the Royal counties Agricultural Society, will be opened in the Drill Hall, Wokingham on Monday next, the first course of lessons to last ten days. Particulars are advertised.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March

#### OPENING OF A DAIRY SCHOOL

Under the auspices of the technical committee of the Berks. County Council a dairy school for Wokingham and the neighbourhood was started under very favourable circumstances in every respect. Mr. T.M. Wescott, the popular and energetic representative of Wokingham on the County Council, took the matter in hand, and with the kind co-operation of Mr. Alderman Walter, of Bearwood, made excellent arrangements. Mr. Arthur F. Walter having kindly granted the use of the Drill Hall for the purpose, and a more suitable building could not have been found

The full complement of ten students—eight females and two males—formed the class on Monday morning, when all the various appliances which have been used at the other dairy schools in the county were placed in position, the art of butter-making being demonstrated in a very lucid and practical way by Miss Walsh, who has conducted the other schools in so able a manner.

Mr. E. Simmons was present as representing the Berks County Council, and there was no formal opening. Each day the proceedings have been watched with much

interest by many ladies and gentlemen of the district, and Mr. Wescott has filled the duties of local steward to satisfaction. On the last day of the school there will be a special prize competition, open to students who have attended an entire course. There will be a second course of instruction commencing on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, for which there are already several entries.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May

**INTERESTING MUNICIPAL FUNCTION**  
(Presentation of Mayor's Chain)

Some four years ago an attempt, which at that time met with anything but an encouraging reception, was made to provide a Mayoral chain for the Borough of Wokingham. The matter fell into abeyance for a time, but the promoters—who felt that such insignia were necessary to the maintenance of civic dignity, pretty well every other Corporation in the Kingdom owning a chain of office for its chief magistrate—stirred the question from time to time, and at last Ald. Heron took upon himself to collect the necessary fund, which he quickly succeeded in doing, the High Steward (Mr. John Walter), Sir George Russell, M.P., the Rector of Wokingham, the Rev. J.T. Brown, Mr. Murdoch, Mr. D. Heelas (deputy-Mayor of Reading), and other gentlemen being amongst the first and most liberal of the subscribers. A committee was then formed, and, ultimately a very handsome chain was manufactured to their order by Messrs. Garrard & Co., of the Haymarket, while out of the surplus fund Messrs. Earle & Co., of Chancery-lane supplied a fitting robe of office for the Mayor. The chain is of silver-gilt, of very handsome design, and has as a pendant a fine badge, bearing the arms of Queen Elizabeth, King James II., and Queen Victoria (the three Sovereigns who have granted charters to Wokingham), and of the Borough. Everything thus brought to a happy conclusion, it was arranged to present the chain and robe of office at a public dinner, which was accordingly held in the Town Hall on Thursday evening last.

The hall looked specially bright and attractive, not only by reason of the pretty style in which the tables were decorated, but particularly owing to the fine lot historic oil painting hanging on the walls having been beautifully cleaned and restored by Mt. F. Ryman Hall, of Oxford, under the direction of a committee of which Councillor H.G. Powell was the leading spirit. A capital repast was placed on the tables by Mr. Churchman of the Rose Hotel.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> April

**MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE TO MARRY**

The marriage of the Marquis of Downshire to Miss Katherine Hare will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May

**OFFER TO PURCHASE GAS WORKS**

The town clerk has been instructed to write offering to purchase the Gas Works & Co. at a valuation subject to the sanction of the local Government Board to borrow money for the purpose.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May

**DEATH OF DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE**

Caroline, grandmother of the present Marquis of Downshire died at 4 o' clock on Wednesday.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July

#### GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The annual festival of the rural-deanery branch was held in St. Paul's Church on Wednesday afternoon. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. G. Davy, curate-in-charge of St. Alban's, Sunninghill. The offerings (£2 8s. 10d.) were divided between the Wokingham branch and St. Mary's (Battersea) affiliated branch. On the kind invitation of Mrs. Nicholson the members visited Matthew's Green.

#### MUNIFICENT GIFT BY MR. WALTER

The High-Steward of the Borough (Mr. John Walter of Bearwood) with his usual generosity has had a magnificent illuminated clock erected in a tower attached to St. Paul's Schools, where he is making extensive enlargements and which will shortly be opened. The clock, which is the work of Messrs Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, has two faces, the opal dials of which measure 4f. 6 ins. And are lighted by an automatic gas arrangement, nine burners being attached to each dial. The hours are struck on a fine toned bell weighing 7 hundredweights. The whole works are made of fine gun metal, and solid steel cut pinions. The clock was started on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The work has successfully been carried out by Mr. Rateholder, representing Messrs Gillett and Johnston.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Market Committee reported that Mr. Beningfield had arranged to assign the Market lease to Messrs. Cottrell & Simmons, auctioneers, of Reading, and requested a license for the purpose. The application having been considered, it was agreed to recommend that such license be granted. Instructions were given to prepare a license similar to that granted on a former occasion.

#### PROPOSED PURCHASE OF GAS WORKS

The Lighting Committee reported that a meeting was held to consider a letter from the Gas Company's solicitors enclosing a copy of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the shareholders, accepting the offer by the Town Council to purchase the Gas Works &c., at a valuation as stated, and authorising the directors to enter into an agreement for sale on condition that the Town council agrees to pay the fees of the valuer appointed by the company, should the Council be unable to complete the purchase. The Town Clerk was instructed to acknowledge the letter and to communicate with the Local Government Board on the subject of the purchase. The reply of the Local Government Board stated that it would be necessary to obtain a provisional order for the purpose of giving effect to the scheme. The committee would now proceed to take the necessary steps as formerly authorised by the council.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### DEATH OF MR. S. SPENCER

By the death of Mr. S. Spencer, Chemist, which took place on Wednesday evening at an advanced age, Wokingham loses one of its oldest inhabitants. For many years the deceased held the office of local post-master. He was a native of Windsor and was present at the Jubilee of George III in 1810. He came to reside in Wokingham in 1837 but retired from active business life some years ago. He was very reticent about his age but the general opinion was that he was nearly a centenarian. ( a later article states that not all details were true but no further details submitted.)

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

Mr. W. Chambers was appointed Mace Bearer.

1894

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May

#### BOROUGH RATE COLLECTOR

Applications for the appointment of the Borough Rate Collector were received. Mr. H.E. Hall was appointed.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June

#### FORTHCOMING LOCAL ENQUIRY

A local enquiry will be held on Thursday next at the Wokingham Town Hall, under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1894, to consider the question of the parish of Wokingham, which is at present situated partly in the Urban Sanitary District and partly in the Rural Sanitary District of Wokingham. Mr. H. Lane, Mr. J. Walter and Mr. T.M. Wescott are the gentlemen appointed by the Unitary Council to hold the enquiry.

#### LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT AND DANCE

The third annual invitation lawn tennis tournament took place on the Cricket Ground, Wokingham, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and three days following. The matches were played on the American system throughout, all competitors being handicapped. The first day was devoted to mixed doubles in which there were 61 entries. The gentlemen's singles occupied the second day, while the third was set aside for the ladies' singles which brought out some exciting [illegible]. The finals were all decided on the last day, in the presence of a large company and in summerlike weather. Mr. Churchman of the Rose Hotel, supplied the refreshments.

The tournament was followed by a ball in the Drill Hall on the following evening, at which a large number of the competitors with their friends were present. The band was supplied by Mr. Martin of Yorktown, and the supper was satisfactorily served by Mr. Chambers, of the Market-place. The arrangements for the tournament and dance were carried out by Mr. F.E. Tomlinson, assisted by a committee of gentlemen in Wokingham and the neighbourhood.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

On Thursday last a special meeting was held, when there were present the Mayor (Councillor Mower), Aldermen Heelas, Heron and Wescott, Councillors White, Knight, Phillips, G. Sale, P. Sale and Seaward. The Town Clerk read a petition against the Thames Conservancy Bill, 1894, to which the Corporate Seal was affixed. A letter was read from the Thames Conservators with reference to the Sewage Farm, which was considered, and the question was referred to the Survey Committee. The Surveyor was instructed to proceed with the new drain to carry off the surface water from the Station-road and Barkham-road. Instructions were also given for an inspection of shop window blinds with a view to require them to be raised to the prescribed height.

### A RUNAWAY COW

Some commotion was caused on Wednesday evening by a Jersey cow escaping from one of the railway trucks at the station. After an exciting chase down the line and over various fences the runaway was captured and led with halters into a shed belonging to Mr. Smith, and on Thursday was taken to Binfield.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July

### THE WATER SUPPLY

Another special notice has been issued by the Water Company during the week to consumers stating that, "Owing to the present drought the directors find it necessary to cut off the supply during the hours from twelve at noon till six o'clock in the morning. The reduction began on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>. The directors state they will if possible reduce the number of hours (18 out of the 24) during which the water will be cut off from time to time.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July

### FORESTERS FETE

The Ancient Order of Foresters, Court "Leo" (5078), Wokingham held their annual rural Fete on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in a meadow in the Wellington-road, kindly lent by Mr. W.T. Martin. The members of the club started in procession from the Court House and paraded the town at midday, headed by the Town Band. Athletic sports commenced at 2.30, and suitable prizes were given for the various races. Dancing commenced at four o'clock, an efficient quadrille band being in attendance. Bro. J. Taylor acted as M.C. Fruit and fancy good stalls were provided, as well as a steam circus, swings, shooting galleries, cocoanuts &c. Prizes were distributed by Ald. Wescott. Refreshments were provided by Mr. Partridge of the "Roebuck."

### MILITARY

On Monday a squadron of the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers passed through the town on their way to Aldershot, under the command of Col. MacKenzie consisting of 97 men and 100 horses. The men were entertained at Matthews Green by Mrs. Nicholson. The Wokingham Town Band played a selection of dance music. The grounds were open to the public, and a large company assembled.

Another squadron visited the town on Wednesday. The troopers were entertained to tea in the rooms at the rear of the Working Men's Club, Peach-street.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sept

### CRICKET

A match was played on the Wokingham ground on Saturday, between Wokingham and Yately. The following was the score—Wokingham 109; Yately 103.

### THE WOKINGHAM CLUB

On Wednesday a Fancy Fair and Jumble Sale were held at "The Holt" (by permission of Mr D. Heelas) in aid of the Wokingham Club.

The proceedings commenced at 2.30 with a Jumble Sale, and very quickly the large assortment of articles displayed were bought by eager purchasers. A Clown Cricket match followed, and caused much merriment. Flat, sack and obstacle races produced keen competition. A large marquee was at various times filled with an appreciative audience, and capital concerts and variety entertainments were given by well-known local amateurs and others. Members of the Aldershot Gymnastic Staff (prize winners



at the Royal Military Tournament gave a display in the grounds. Their feats being loudly applauded. The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade went through a series of drills, fire calls, &c. The grounds at dusk were tastefully illuminated, and dancing freely indulged in. Mr. C.H. Martin's string band played a selection of music in the evening.

The energetic committee and their friends are to be congratulated on providing such a capital and varied programme of amusements. Where all did their best it would be invidious to mention names, but exception may be made in the case of Mr. Arthur T. Heelas, the energetic Hon. Secretary. There was a large attendance of visitors both in the afternoon and evening.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN COUNCIL

At the monthly meeting on Thursday the Mayor stated that the Local Government Board had received a deputation respecting the extension of the time (20 years) for the repayment of the loan for the purchase of the Gas Works and that the board had promised to consider the matter carefully.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday last week in the Council Chamber, Wokingham, the Mayor (Mr. W.B. Mower) in the chair. There were also present the ex-Mayor (Councillor White), Aldermen Wescott, Phillips, Sale, Seaward, P. Sale and E. Ifould.

In answer to Coun. P. Sale who enquired what the Lighting Sub-Committee had done with regard to the extension of time for repayment of the loan. The Mayor stated that they had received a mass of correspondence from the Local Government Board, who agreed that a deputation should be received from the Town Council. The Sub-Committee with Mr. Jones, the valuer, had waited on the Board. Mr. Jones pointed out the injustice of such a short time being allowed for repayment of the loan for the purchase of the Gas Works, and also laid a written statement before the Board explaining why extra time for repayment should be granted. The deputation was very courteously received, and the Local Government Board promised to consider the matter carefully. He (the Mayor) believed that the reason why the time of repayment had been put at so short a time (20 years) was that the existing works were old and the Local Government Board probably thought the Town Council might build a new gas works instead. As the Council did not wish to do that, he was quite sanguine that the time of repayment would be extended.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### GAS WORKS

In the Gas Works Committee report the chief point was that the Local Government Board had agreed to sanction at once the borrowing of the £6,444 required for the purchase of the Gas Works. There was some discussion on the arrangements for the purchase; the appointment of a manager and certain steps taken by the company. The report was adopted.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### SOUP KITCHEN

A handbill has been issued by the Mayoress stating that good soup can be obtained at the Coffee Tavern two days in the week at a nominal sum during the cold weather.

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor offered to present new dials and the necessary apparatus for illuminating the Town Hall Clock, provided the Corporation would undertake the future lighting. The offer was unanimously accepted.

(N.B. A plate recording the mayor's generosity was later fixed to the clock.)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### THE SEVERE FROST AND THE PREVAILING DISTRESS

The Mayor of Wokingham has opened a fund for the relief of the poor of the parish who are in distress owing to the continuance of the severe weather. He will be grateful for subscriptions.

Sat 13th April

#### THE MAYOR'S GIFT TO THE TOWN

The illuminated dials, the gift of Mr. Councillor Phillips have been affixed to the Town Hall clock and have been in use this week. The work has been successfully carried out by Messrs. Bracher and Sydenham, of Reading.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### PROMENADE CONCERT

The Wokingham All Saints' Parish Band gave their third promenade concert on Monday evening at "The Brook" by permission of Colonel Gordon Young. The grounds and lake were illuminated and there was a good attendance of visitors. Unfortunately two persons were immersed in the lake through the upsetting of a boat, but they escaped with a wetting.

#### AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

A lively meeting was held on Monday evening, in the Market-place, of members of this society. An address was delivered by Mr. Quelch on should Trade Unionists support the Tory, Liberal or Socialist Party?"

#### AN INFURIATED COW

Traffic through the town was at a standstill on Saturday afternoon, caused by the vagaries of a cow being driven through the town. All attempts at capture were futile. Two men, named Wise and Ilsley, were injured, the former somewhat seriously in the wrist. The borough water cart was backed towards the animal, and the water turned on, but the cart was charged again and again. Other cows were brought, and the infuriated animal joined the herd, and was eventually placed in a meadow near the town.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY

A public meeting in connection with this society was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening, when an address was given by Alderman C. Clements, of Henley. Recitations, music, &c., were given by Mrs. Clements, Miss Kirk, and others. The

Rev. J. Cave presided—A social evening was held on Wednesday at the Church Room. A debate was introduced by Counc. P. Sale, who moved “That it is the duty of every Temperance elector to refuse to support any candidate who will not pledge himself to Temperance legislation.” Opposition was led by Mr. F. Hawkins, jun., and a discussion ensued.

#### DANCE AT THE DRILL HALL

A very successful dance was held in the Drill Hall, o Monday evening when about 140 persons assembled.

#### ENTERTAINMENT AT THE WORKHOUSE

Councillor Seaward provided a long and varied entertainment of music, &c., on Wednesday Evening for the inmates of the Workhouse.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

An examination was held on Wednesday, in St. Paul’s Schools, by H.M. Inspector, for the purpose of granting Labour Certificates to children between the ages of 11 and 13. Over sixty children were examined.

#### ALARMING FIRE IN FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD

Great alarm was caused in Wokingham on Sunday evening when it became known that a large storehouse belonging to Messrs. Isaiah Gadd and Co., Limited, in the Finchampstead Road, was on fire. The Brigade was called at 7 p.m. by a man named Sadler, many of the firemen being either at church or chapel. They were, however, promptly on the spot, and their united efforts subdued what appeared at first sight to be a most alarming fire, as the storehouse was in close proximity to the Corporation Gas Works and a long row of cottages. A very strong wind was blowing at the time, and fortunately carried the flames and sparks away from the Gas Works. Carey Cottage adjoining was soon in a blaze, and few articles of the householder’s furniture (uninsured) were rescued. The storehouse being filled with oilcake, hay, straw, corn, and implements, burnt with great fury, and the wooden sheds adjoining were quickly in flames, and for a long time the greatest excitement prevailed.

At 10 p.m. the fire was subdued, but the members of the Brigade were not able to leave until 1 a.m., when three of their number were left in charge of the smouldering debris. At 1 o’clock o Monday, the Brigade left the scene of the fire. The sight from the S. W. Railway line presents a melancholy spectacle. There was plenty of water available from the main, the pumping engine at the water works being in motion. It is understood that the property of Messrs. Gadd and Co. was insured.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

#### WOKINGHAM MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The first season of the present season was brought to a close with a “Coffee Supper” and entertainment on Wednesday evening at the Wesleyan schoolroom, in Rose Street. There was a good attendance and the musical programme was much enjoyed. Those taking part were Misses Spear, Godwin, Lewis, Gadd and Durdle, and Messrs: Lunn, Paul and Hawkins. Votes of thanks to the President (Mr. Grey), the ladies for the preparation of the refreshments, and to the performers, were heartily carried.

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Messrs. Gadd and Co. Limited, have written to the Secretary of the Volunteer Fire Brigade thanking the Brigade for their services at the late fire, and enclosing a cheque for two guineas as a donation to the funds of the Brigade.

#### SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

The usual Saturday evening entertainment was again a great success, and Mr. Seaward's efforts in this direction are greatly appreciated. Songs were contributed by Misses Ifound and Hallaway, Messrs Lunn, Jeynes, Maynard, Cooper and Webb. Mr. Thorpe, of Reading, sang songs which were much appreciated. The Misses Player and Ifould played pianoforte solos, and Mrs. Day and Miss Davis contributed recitations, and Miss Carter performed a graceful dance. The accompanists were the Misses Ifould and Pigg. The room was crowded.

1896

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Councillor Seaward's usual Saturday night entertainment was held in the Church Room, and was well attended. Most of the performers who have given their services on previous occasions again contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

#### FOOTBALL

Two Oxfordshire clubs visited Wokingham on Saturday. Caversham met Wokingham Town and retired defeated by two goals to none. The Magpies in their match with Emmer Green on Langborough, were not so successful, the match ending in a draw of two goals each.

#### THE PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY FROM WOKINGHAM TO BASINGSTOKE

The unanimous resolutions passed at the meetings of both the Basingstoke and Wokingham Urban District Councils conclusively prove the popularity, of this project for joining Basingstoke and Wokingham by a direct line of railway which will not only form the connecting link between the main line of the London and South Western Railway and their Staines and Wokingham Branch, but will also be of very great advantage to the intermediate district, which is now badly provided with railway accommodation.

The excellent markets at Reading, Basingstoke and Wokingham will be opened up to the tenant farmers, who will be able thereby to sell their produce to the best advantage without having to cart long distances by road.

Between Staines and Wokingham there is a large residential district requiring a considerable quantity of farm produce, such as hay, straw and oats, which can be easily supplied from the district opened up by the proposed railway.

There is also a considerable amount of woodland, and the owners would no doubt get a much better price for their timber if they had convenient stations close at hand where it could be put on the railway trucks.

Improved facilities for communication invariably tend to the prosperity of the district served and having regard to the charming nature of the country and the large area of land suitable for building purposes, important residential properties will spring up, and thereby benefit the three market towns most directly interested.

For some time past *The Times* has led the way in advocating the better opening up of the country by improving the railway communication and here is a projected line, a

little over 14 miles in length, which will probably do more good than any other of a similar length in the South of England.

Those interested in the prosperity of the district would do well to give the new line their cordial support and we hope the large business firms for which Reading is famous will do all in their power to help on a local undertaking which must prove highly beneficial to the whole district.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June

#### SACRILEGE AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

During last week the Church of St. Paul was entered through the Vestry window. The two padlocks on the almsbox were broken and the iron safe in the Vestry was much damaged. At present no arrests have been made.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### CHETWOOD SOLD

Chetwood near Wokingham has been successfully disposed of through the agency of Messrs. William R. Nicholas and Company of Reading and London. The price obtained is said to be a satisfactory one.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug

#### THE NEW SEWAGE SYSTEM

The following are the particulars of the sewage system adopted by the Town Council at their last meeting, as recorded in the Mercury. The sewage in the Finchampstead-road is not at present connected with the outfall of the sewers, as it is necessary to remove it by lifting it into the sewer at Wellington-road—a height of 38ft. This will be divided into two portions. The sewage is to be lifted from near the “Pin and Bowl” into a lift at the end of Carey-road, whence it will be forced with the sewage of the upper portion to the outfall of the sewer. To do this the necessary pressure is to be obtained by taking from the present outfall if the sewer near the “Duke’s Head” a volume of sewage and carrying it into the top of a tower to be erected at the sewage farm. The difference in the level between the sewer near the “Duke’s Head” and the bottom of the tower on the farm will be 35ft. The low-level sewage at the two points mentioned gravitates into cast-iron cylinders, which are connected by rising mains with the outfall of the sewer, and from the cylinder air-pipes are carried into the tower on the sewage farm. These are connected with an air-cylinder from which the air is forced through the air-pipe by the pressure obtained from the sewage in the top of the tower. The sewage is discharged by means of an automatic flush tank down a pressure pipe into the air-cylinders, the weight of this column of liquid giving the pressure necessary to lift the sewage from the Finchampstead-road. To make the apparatus automatic, a plain siphon is fitted to the air-cylinder, which at the end of each discharge is automatically set in action and withdrawn. The apparatus has been working satisfactorily in Great Grimsby for eight months.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL STRONG ROOM COMMITTEE

This Committee reported that a meeting was held on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, when tenders were produced for work in connection with the strong room. It was agreed to recommend that Mr. Seaward’s tender for £35 be accepted. It was also agreed to recommend that

the sum of £30 be allowed for the purchase of an iron door. A meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. when certain alterations in the size of the room were considered and approved, which do not affect the above tender. It was agreed to recommend that about £5 be allowed for shelves or fittings.

Ald. Heron proposed and Ald. White seconded and it was carried that the report be adopted.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> December

#### MOTOR CAR

Wokingham was aroused on Tuesday morning by the appearance of a motor car which was driven through the town from the direction of Bracknell towards Reading.

1897

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March

#### STRONG ROOM COMMITTEE

A meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March when the account for fitting up the room including the cost of the door was approved and recommended for payment. The specifications of further work of painting, papering & c. in connection with the room were read and tenders opened. It was agreed to recommend that the tender of Mr. Dearlove for £15.15s. be accepted.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1897

#### SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENTS

Councillor Seaward's efforts have again been much appreciated for arranging these popular entertainments during the past winter. The last and a very successful entertainment was given in the Town Hall on Saturday evening, the usual friends contributing to the programme.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee the members of the volunteer fire brigade have arranged to roast an ox generously presented by the captain of the brigade (Counc Ifould) in the Market-place on Jubilee Day – the meat afterwards to be distributed to the needy inhabitants of Wokingham. The brigade are appealing to the public for subscriptions and help in order to extend the scheme.

Sat 7th Aug

#### ODD FELLOWS FETE

On Bank Holiday the Wokingham Lodge of Odd Fellows held their annual fete in a meadow in the Easthampstead-road, lent by Messrs. Lush. The Wokingham Town Band headed a procession of the members with their banners through the streets of the town. Sports were provided, prizes being given by tradesmen of the town. Various competitions of singing, dancing &c., were held. There was a large attendance of visitors, and plenty of amusement was provided

#### ALL SAINTS' BAND

This band, by permission of Commander and Mrs. Gregorie, gave a promenade concert and dance at Highfield on Monday evening.

### STORMY WEATHER

In tropical weather thunder was heard in Wokingham district on Thursday. At 1.45 p.m. the lightning struck a new chimney stack at Johnson's Farm, King Street, adjoining the Reading-road. A hole was made in the chimney pot and the electric current then split the stack from top to base and dislodged some tiles. The house has lately undergone considerable repair. Some workmen employed on the building were lying down close to the struck building, but no one was hurt.

### ANGLING

Mr. W.J. Davis, of the Reading and District Angling association, whilst fishing with light roach tackle in the Loddon, on July 29<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by Mr. Smale, of Wokingham, caught and landed a fine tench weighing four pounds.

Sat 21st Aug

### OUT-DOOR FETE

An open-air fete was held at the Rectory grounds by permission of Canon and Mrs. Sturges, on Wednesday in aid of the funds of the Church of England Temperance Society, the Magpie C.C., and the Parish Church organ fund. The weather sadly interfered with the success of the undertaking, the rain descended at intervals all through the day. In the afternoon the Band of the Gordon Boys' Home paraded the streets of the town and proceeded to the Rectory where a jumble sale managed by Miss Sturges was held and resulted in a profit of £13. Physical exercises, drills, etc. were performed by a squad of boys from the Gordon Home, and a concert was given by ladies and gentlemen in the Rectory. The band performed at intervals during the afternoon and evening, whilst out-door games were provided in a meadow close by. Considering the inclement weather a good number of persons were present including Mrs. Sturges, the Misses Ellisons, Miss Maitland, Capt. And Miss Gregorie, Mr and Miss Hatherall, M. and Mme Marcuard de Montet, Rev. R. von Muller Nixon, Rev. and Mrs. Page, Mrs. Ward, Rev. Lawson, Councillor P. Sale, etc.

### THE MAYOR'S WATER PARTY

On the invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, the members of the Town Council and their wives enjoyed a water picnic on the Thames on Monday. The party, numbering about 80 left Wokingham by an early train, and on arriving at Reading were conveyed to Caversham-bridge, where they embarked on Mr. Bona's splendid steam-launch "Fashion," and at once proceeded down the river. The day was gloriously fine, and everybody on board thoroughly enjoyed the trip, which extended as far as Cookham. Luncheon was served in the saloon by Mr. Chambers of the Market-place, Wokingham, and on the return journey tea was also provided. Caversham was reached in the evening about 7.30, enabling the party to get to Wokingham about 8.0'clock.

The excursion was duly appreciated by those who were able to be present, and, as in 1895, this outing will be pleasantly remembered for a very long time in connection with Counc. Phillips' occupancy of the Mayoral chair.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Aug

### FATAL EXPLOSION OF AN OIL LAMP AT THE WALTER ARMS INN, BEARWOOD

A very sad incident happened on Sunday evening at the Walter Arms Inn, Bearwood. Mrs. Ellen Cook, wife of the landlord, was carrying a lamp upstairs when

it exploded, and she was so severely burnt that she died on Monday evening. At the inquest, held by Mr. W. Weedon, coroner, at the "Walter Arms" on Wednesday, the following evidence was given:-

John Cook, landlord of the house, said deceased was his wife, and she was 40. On Sunday evening, about 10, when closing the house, witness walked outside with David Lyddiatt. In a minute or so he heard a scream and rushed back into the house. He saw flames at the bottom of the stairs and his wife lying there. Witness called for help did the best he could to put out the flames. When they had previously gone out of the house his wife met them in the passage. She had no lamp. When they found her the bottom of the lamp was on the stairs and the remainder scattered about. It was a lamp he had used for a considerable time in the bar-parlour. He asked deceased how it happened, and she said the lamp burst in her hand. They bought the lamp second hand in the village about 18 months before. On finding his wife he sent for a doctor at once. She died on Monday evening.

John Edward Allnatt, who keeps Sindlesham Stores, said he had seen the exploded lamp, which was a very unsafe one. Witness discontinued selling them some years ago on that account. There was a very little space between the reservoir and the wick and the glass reservoir was objectionable. Witness had sold oil to the last witness for five or six years and never had a complaint. It was "Tea Rose."

David Lyddiatt, a carpenter, confirmed the landlord's evidence.

Ethel Newport, wife of a farm labourer, said she was called to deceased on Sunday night, about 10.30 and remained with her till 3 the next morning. Her body was very much burnt. All was done for her that could be.

The jury returned a verdict of "Died from shock arising from burns owing to the accidental explosion of an oil lamp."

#### CRICKET MATCH

The butchers and bakers of the town played a cricket match on Wednesday on the ground of Wokingham Cricket Club. The game terminated in a win for the butchers by three runs.

#### WOKINGHAM CATTLE MARKET

Messrs Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild held their usual sale of stock on Tuesday. There was a large supply of calves, and a very good attendance of buyers. Fat calves made from £3 18s. to £4 16s.; sucklers, 11s. to 33s.

#### CRICKET

A match was played on the Wokingham ground on Friday between the servants of W. Simonds, of Woodbury, Farley Hill and Mr. A.J. Nicholson of Glebelands, resulting in a win by 28 runs for the former. Play was commenced at 11.30 in showery weather, but the day improved, and it was quite fine until just at the close of the game. Mr. Nicholson's side, winning the toss, went in first, but only made 24, Woodbury following with 51. In the second innings, Mr. Nicholson's team made 79 against 80 of Mr. Simond's. A. Shorter and S. Milum bowled extremely well for Mr. Nicholson and D. Marchum and S. P. Simonds for Woodbury. J. Bushell for the winning side played an excellent innings of 50, going in first and carrying his bat.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### FIRE AT A FARM



The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade were called at 4.30 a.m. on Tuesday to a fire at Blagrove's Farm, East Heath, owned by and in the occupation of their captain, Mr. E. Ifould, ex-Mayor of Wokingham. The captain, Lieut. Brant, and all but two of the members turned out so smartly that they had covered the mile and a half distance between the fire station and the farm, and had the engine at work within the half hour. It was impossible to prevent the destruction of a newly-built and thatched rick containing 50 or 60 quarters of valuable oats, which had been fired; but the efforts of the brigade saved a large and lately repaired barn standing within 12 feet of the rick, and other thatched farm buildings in the immediate neighbourhood. The water was obtained from a pond. The brigade returned at 9.45 a.m. There is practically no doubt that the conflagration was the work of an incendiary; and in many respect it resembles the fire about a year ago on an adjoining farm of Mr. Ifould's. The rick was valued at £70 and was insured.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

#### CYCLISTS CARNIVAL

In connection with the Wokingham Club a most successful cyclists' carnival took place on Wednesday evening. The Committee consisted of the following members of the club. :- Messrs. W.H. Howard (captain, Belcher, Hussey, Harvey, Harries, C.H. Martin, Taylor, Watts, Tebbitt, Mooray and Heelas (hon. Sec.) had arranged the programme well. The procession formed outside the Drill Hall shortly after 6 p.m. and consisted of cyclists in various costumes, decorated cars, and the usual type of masqueradors. Considerable taste was shown in many of the characters portrayed and the judges consisting of the Rev. H.M. Walter, Messrs De Vitre (President of the Club), and Watts, Drs. Heasman and Ward, and Commander Gregorie R.N. had some difficulty in allocating the prizes which were offered by the Club. The success of the parade was enhanced by the attendance of the Town Band, the All Saints' Parish Band, and the members of the Boys' Brigade, who acted as lantern and torch bearers, and the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade on their engine Alert, under the command of Mr. Ifould (captain). A feature of the procession was several cars illustrating Britannia (awarded first prize), "Father Time," and the Royal County Cycling Works, the latter drawn by a powerful road engine. After parading the streets of the town, which were thronged with sightseers, the procession dispersed in the Market-place. A variety concerts was afterwards given in the Drill Hall, and among the contributors to the programme were Messrs. W.F. Cheeseman, W.J. Hodgson, Harry Russell, Claud Martin, Ben Lawes, and F. Wigley. Mr. C.H. Martin, organist at the Royal Military College, was the accompanist. During the carnival a large quantity of confetti was thrown.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

A meeting in aid of these Homes was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, when Major Evered Poole gave an illustrated lecture on the rescue and training of destitute children through Dr. Bernardo's Homes and the special work of the Young Helpers' League. The Chair was taken by Mr. D. Heelas. It is stated that 75 children from Berks have been admitted to the House during the last five years. There was a very good attendance. The Major expressed his sympathy with the work of Dr. Bernardo. Miss Alice Heelas in hon. Sec. of the Young Helpers' League.

#### ACCIDENTS IN SHUTE END

A horse attached to a trap belonging to Mr. Coston was being driven into the town from the Station-road, on Thursday, shortly before 1 o'clock, when it bolted, being frightened by a traction engine, and rushed into the chains and posts surrounding the trees opposite St. Paul's Rectory, and dislodging three of the posts. Beatrice Kirby, Bowden, Dean Charlotte Taylor, and Florence Groves, children of St. Paul's Schools, were playing on the Green and were injured. Beatrice Kirby sustained a broken arm and other injuries, and was conveyed to the Reading Hospital. The other children received cuts and bruises, Drs. Ward and Barford promptly attended to the injured little ones. The shafts of the trap were broken, and the driver was thrown violently out. The children are progressing favourably.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Hawkins presided at the weekly meeting on Wednesday evening, in the Wesleyan School-room, Rose Street. Mr. Councillor Baker gave a successful lantern entertainment, illustrative of "Egypt and the Pyramids." Mr. Wesley Baker efficiently manipulated the lantern. Some excellent views were thrown upon the screen, and at the close of the entertainment, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Baker. There were 60 persons present.

#### SALE OF A FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE

Messrs Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild sold at the Queen's Hotel on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> November, the freehold fully-licensed inn, known as the "Rifleman," close to Wokingham. There was a large attendance of buyers, and biddings were brisk, starting at £1,500; eventually the property was sold to Meers, Nicholson and Sons, of Maidenhead for £3,200. Messrs Cooke, Coper, and Barry, Wokingham were solicitors for the vendor.

#### WOKINGHAM CATTLE MARKET

Messrs. Cottrell, Simmons and Goodchild held their usual sale of stock on Tuesday. There was a fair supply and a good attendance of buyers. Fat calves made from £4 to £4 16s.; sucklers, 15s. to 36s.; sheep, 25s. 6d.; pigs, 20s. to 70s.

1898

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch's house party for the Garth Hunt Ball and the following meet (reported else where) included H.R.H. Prince Christian (attended by Major Martin) the Earl of Coventry, Mr. George, Lady and Miss Russell, Miss Emerson Tennant, and Mr. Ambrose Lethbridge.

#### SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO MR. HOWARD PALMER IN THE HUNTING FIELD

We regret to say that on Monday a serious accident happened to Mr. Howard Palmer, of "Heathlands," while hunting with Mr. Garth's Foxhounds. The meet was at Billingbear, and when near Hawthorn Hill Mr. Palmer's horse swerved at a blind fence, and pitched the rider over its head, the result being a broken collar bone and severe shock. Dr. Heasman, of Wokingham, who was in the field, at once attended to

Mr. Palmer, and the sufferer was taken to his home in Mrs. Henderson's carriage. Mr. Palmer is going on well under Dr. Heasman's treatment.

#### FIRE BRIGADE FANCY DRESS BALL.

The Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade held a very successful fancy dress ball in the Drill Hall on Wednesday. The dance was in aid of the Accident Insurance Fund, which costs the brigade about £22 annually, and took the place of the concert which has generally been held in former years on behalf of the fund. Encouraged by the success of Wednesday evening's departure from the usual entertainment the brigade propose to make the ball an annual institution. The furnishing of the hall and anti rooms was undertaken with considerable taste by Messrs. Heelas and Co. of Reading, and Mr. R. herring of the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, catered for the refreshments. About 150 invitations were issued and most of them accepted. Dancing was from 9 o'clock till 3 a.m., the music being played by a string band, supplied by Mr. C.H. Martin, of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. The members of the brigade were in uniform, and a large number of the guests wore fancy costumes of various styles and periods. The masters of ceremonies, who efficiently carried out the programme arrangements, were Mr. E. Ifould (the captain of the brigade), Mr. A. Goswell (hon. Secretary), and Mr. Metcalf. The other members present, under the command of Mr. Brant (the lieutenant), were Engineer Caiger and Firemen W. Martin, F. Martin, Seaward, Knight and Mower.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE TOWN HALL

The children attending the British School and the Baptist Sunday School had a Christmas tree in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March

#### DONATION OF PAINTING FROM REV. PENNY

The Mayor read a letter which he had received from Miss Penny on behalf of her brother, the Rev. C. W. Penny announcing that an oil painting belonging to him should be presented to the Corporation for the Town Hall and also an extract from Mr. Penny's note book on Wokingham. It was resolved to accept the painting and the following resolution was unanimously agreed upon:- That this Council gratefully accept and appreciate the generous gift from the Rev. C.W. Penny of the oil painting portrait of Prince George of Denmark and regard it as a valuable addition to their collection. They wish to assure him of their very deep regret with which they hear of his serious illness.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July

#### ILLUMINATED DANCE

A successful meeting in aid of the Town Band was held on Monday evening at Clare Court (late Glebelands) by kind permission of Mrs. Hatharall. The band, under Mr. Surman, played a capital selection, and dancing was followed with vigour from 7 till 19 o'clock. Mrs. W. White ably-managed the refreshment stall, and the grounds were prettily illuminated.

#### EXCURSIONS

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual excursion of the Saw Mills Excursion Club was held on Saturday, the special train leaving Wokingham at 5.23 a.m. and reaching Ramsgate about 8.30. Mr. G.T. Phillips was with the party, and the Borough employees also were included.

Margate was visited by many, and a pleasant day's outing closed at midnight with the arrival home. About 600 tickets were issued. On Monday several journeyed to Hastings by the National Deposit Friendly Society's excursion.

#### MILITARY

Each day during the week a small detachment of the Royal Engineers, with pontoon and store wagons has made a mid-day halt at the "Hope and Anchor," and on Friday a large body of some 130 men, etc., bivouacked near the town, resuming the march on Saturday morning. Each party was on route from Aldershot to Henley for pontoon practice, and thence they go to the manoeuvres near Salisbury.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July

#### AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Wokingham Agricultural Association was held last week at the Rose Hotel. Mr. Henry Lane, a vice-president of the Association occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members of the committee. It was decided to offer prizes for poultry, eggs and butter, in addition to those usually offered. The hon. Secretary reported that the entries for the cultivation of root crops were considerably above the average.

#### TRAMPS AT WOKINGHAM

Before the Mayor (Mr. D.N. Heron) last week, Wm. Green was sent to prison for refusing to break stones at the Workhouse; and a like penalty imposed on John Smith, another vagrant, for begging in the Easthampstead-road.

#### ACCIDENT

Mr. Henry Bowyer, of Murrell Green Farm, Hurst, was driving with his wife down the hill by St. Paul's Schools on Tuesday afternoon, the horse fell, and Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer were both thrown out of the cart over the horse. Mrs. Bowyer was badly cut about the face, and was taken to a house near. After being seen by a doctor she was able to proceed home in a fly. Mr. Bowyer, who escaped serious injury, drove home. The horse was not much injured.

#### A HORSE KILLED

A serious accident occurred on Wednesday on the Langborough Recreation Ground, resulting in the death of one of the horses belonging to the Corporation. Harnessed to a mowing machine, two horses were cutting the grass on Langboro, when, frightened, probably from the noise of the machine, they became restive and bolted. One animal had its leg so badly cut with the knives that it had to be destroyed. One wheel had to be smashed before the leg of one of the horses could be released, and the gearing etc., was much damaged.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL COST OF MILITARY BILLETING

Councillor Phillips moved, and Councillor J. Seaward seconded. "That this Corporation begs to draw the attention of the Right Hon. Secretary of State for War to the fact that Her Majesty's soldiers and horses cannot be billeted in the town they halt in, when marching, at the present schedule prices, and they respectfully ask that such

steps may be taken as may be necessary to raise the prices so that ratepayers may not lose money by providing accommodation for man and beast; and that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Secretary of State for War and to the Member for the Division, Captain Oliver Young.

The ex-Mayor pointed out the very low prices at which the men and horses had to be billeted, and said this meant a serious loss to small licensed houses. On an average he thought they lost 1s. a night on each man and each horse.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### FOOTBALL CLUB

The "Magpies" have been asked by the Wokingham Football Club to take over the management of the club, and they have decided to do so. In future they will be known as the Wokingham Football Club. At a general meeting held at the Rose Hotel on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. C.H. Martin in the chair, the following officers were elected:-Captain, Mr. James Parker; sub. Captain, Mr. A. Binnie; committee, Messrs Harries, Coston, Clark, Hutt, Martin, Dearlove, Challis, and Spring, with Mr. Jones as secretary and Mr. J. May as treasurer. A large number of members were present.

#### FIRE AT A FARM

Between four and five am on Tuesday a cart shed of Matthews Green Farm which had just been vacated by Mr. George Whitfield who is removing to Woodcote was found to be on fire. Members of the Wokingham Voluntary Fire Brigade took the engine over but found no water in the pond from the drought. The shed with a trap and a number of farm implements left over from the sale was completely destroyed. It will be remembered that the farmhouse was burned out at the beginning of the year.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### THE QUEEN'S REIGN

On Friday the Queen's reign exceeded that of King George III by exactly two years her Majesty having reigned for sixteen years and thirty-one days from June 29 18[illegible]7

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### ENTERTAINMENT AT EMBROOK

A very successful entertainment was given in the Mission Room at Embrook, on Tuesday evening, the proceeds being devoted to the Mission Room Fund. Among those who took part were the Rev. H.M. Walter, rector, and Mrs. Walter, Miss Walter, Miss Barron, Rev. R. von Muller-Nixon, Mr. J. Breach, Mr. Harvey—members of the Boys' Brigade, and a number of school children. In spite of the inclement weather the room was crowded.

#### ROBBERY AT THE ROEBUCK INN

A daring robbery was affected during Monday night at the "roebuck," Market-place, when money and property to the value of about £70 were taken from the premises. It appears that at about 9.40 p.m. a supposed "commercial traveller" drove up to the inn in a pony trap, and asked for accommodation for the night. On Tuesday morning the man ordered breakfast, and stated that he had business at the Post-office, and should be returning in a few minutes. As he failed to do so, suspicion was aroused, and it was

found that he had decamped. It appears that the man booked to Bracknell station by the 9.58 train, but did not go by rail, but hired a fly at the railway Hotel, and drove to Reading, and in consequence no trace of him up to the present has been found.

The pony and trap were left at the inn and have since been claimed by their rightful owner. The stolen property includes a considerable sum in gold, bank notes etc. besides jewellery.

## 1899

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

### FIRE IN PEACH STREET

The fire brigade were called to Mr. Newsome's house on Monday afternoon where a fire had broken out in an upstairs room in which were empty packing cases and surplus furniture. Happily the efforts of the fire brigade were successful in putting out the flames before much damaged had been done. Fireman Knight was unfortunately cut on the hand by broken glass. Fireman Martin also received a cut finger. It is understood that Mr. Newsome is insured.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

### SMOKING CONCERT

A successful 'smoker' was held at the Club House on Monday evening under the Chairmanship of the Mayor (Alderman White) amongst those taking part were Messrs. Powell, Richmond, Smith, Thaxter, Day, Kirkham, Harvey, Deane, S. Adams, White, Hussey, Baker and C.H. Martin. Upwards of 66 members were present.

Sat April 15<sup>th</sup>

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

A very handsomely designed Oak Font Cover has been placed in St. Paul's Church by the family of the late Canon J. T. Brown in memory of the late Canon and Mrs. Brown. It is the work of Mr. Nutt, architect of Windsor and is in keeping with the other beautiful work in the church.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

### GRAND PATRIOTIC CONCERT

A grand patriotic concert, under the patronage of Prince and Princess Christian in aid of the Widows and Orphans of our Soldiers and Sailors killed in the War; is announced to be given in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Tuesday next, which it is hoped will be well patronised. Capt. Arthur Hill M.P. will preside. The lowest price for seats will be 2s.

## 1900

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FRONT

Twenty-two members of the L Wokingham Company of Berkshire Volunteers went to Reading on Thursday for examination as for fitness to go to the front.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### LIGHTING COMMITTEE

At a meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. it was recommended that all the public lamps be cleaned and repaired where necessary and that 5ft burners be used throughout the town. At a meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan it was agreed to recommend that, as an experiment six Walsbach incandescent burners be obtained and placed in the lamps in Broad-street with three new complete lanterns, the three remaining burners to be used with the lanterns now in use which are to be adapted for the purpose. It was reported that the cleaning and repairing had been attended to and that 5ft burners are used in all the public lamps.

Councillor Evans proposed and Councillor Seaward seconded the adoption of the report which was carried.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> March

#### RELIEF OF LADYSMITH

The news of the Relief of Ladysmith was received with great enthusiasm on Thursday morning and in a very short time the town was decorated with flags and banners. A peal was rung on the bells of All Saints Church and a salute of twenty-one fog signals was fired at the Railway Station. At night there was a torchlight procession in which the town band, the Volunteer Band, the Fire Brigade and Boys' Brigade took part.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May

#### THE WAR

##### ANOTHER SEND OFF OF VOLUNTEERS

On Monday evening Privates Clacy, Musto and Gough, members of the L Company of the Royal Berkshire Volunteers had a hearty "send off" by their comrades and townspeople. Sergt. Benstead organised a smoking concert at the Bush Hotel, at which Dr. Hessman presided, and a large company attended. Mrs. Alfrey presented the three members with a pocket compass, and the past and present members of the company gave them each a watch.. The Volunteer band playing patriotic airs, headed a large procession to the Station at 11.15 p.m. hearty cheers were given as the train moved out of the Station.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### RELIEF OF MAFEKING

This long looked for and happy event was celebrated on Monday evening. The Mayor issued a handbill announcing a torchlight procession and inviting the inhabitants to decorate and illuminate their houses. Flags, buntings and Chinese lanterns were displayed from practically every house in the Borough. The procession was timed to start at 0 pm but long before that time the streets were crowded with people, and a great number of fireworks were discharged. The Mayor addressed the crowd and called for cheers for the Queen and the Generals at the front. Capt. A. Hill M.P. (who has recently returned to Wokingham from Natal) made a particularly happy speech, and was loudly applauded. The Wokingham Town Band, and the Volunteer Band joined the procession and played patriotic airs.

The members of the Corporation and the members of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Wokingham Company of the Boys' Brigade, also took part in the procession. Those employed at the Wellington Brewery (Messrs. J. Headington and Son) joined with a nicely decorated van. The greatest amusement was caused by an effigy of President Kruger, the white

flag being conspicuous. After the procession a bonfire was lighted in the Market-place, and the effigy was consigned to the flames. The large crowd was particularly orderly and the police had no trouble. The festivities were continued until the early hours of the morning.

The sum of £11 15s 6d was collected towards the expenses of the celebration of the Relief of Mafeking held at Wokingham on Monday. Any surplus will be handed over to Lady Georgina Curzon's Fund for the Mafeking sufferers. The following sums have already been received:- Miss E. Wescott and the Misses Heelas collection, £1; Miss Fountain and Miss Skerry's collection: £2 1s. 5½d.; Miss F. Culver's collection: 11s. 9d.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June

#### PAY PAY PAY

The sum of £4 was handed to Mrs. Boddington, the wife of Mr. J.O. Boddington who is serving at the front as the result of a street collection made on Saturday evening by the Volunteer Band of whom Mr. Boddington is a member. Two children have died since the father departed and Mrs. Boddington and another child are unfortunately ill at the present time. The kindly action of the Band is much appreciated by Mrs. Boddington.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June

#### THE POST OFFICE

On and after Monday next, we are informed, a mail bag will be made up for all correspondence for London, Reading and the West at midnight, catching the G.W.R. train from Reading between 2 and 3 a.m.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> June

#### THE SUPPLY OF INTOXICANTS TO CHILDREN

At a meeting of the Wokingham Board of Guardians, on Monday, a resolution, which had been forwarded by the Richmond Board of Guardians, was, on the proposition of Mr. C. Clements, seconded by Colonel Powlett, confirmed with two dissentients:- requesting Her Majesty's Government to promote legislation making it illegal to supply children under the age of 16, with intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises and are arranging to prepare a petition for the purpose.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June

#### PROPERTY SALE

On Tuesday afternoon Messrs Buckland and Sons conducted a sale of property at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham. The 1<sup>st</sup> lot offered was the freehold dwelling house, Grosvenor House, Broad Street, Nos. 1,3 and 3a The Terrace and Nos. 2 and 4, Hilton Road, and was knocked down to Mr. H.E. Hall for £1,500. The 2<sup>nd</sup>. lot comprised No. 5 The Terrace, a semi-detached house let at £20 a year, and this was purchased by Mr. Mark Brown for £470. The 3<sup>rd</sup> lot submitted, consisting of Nos. 7 and 9 The Terrace, two old-fashioned cottage residences producing a combined rent of £38 10s. a year, was withdrawn.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### RIFLE CLUB



The committee have secured a capital room in Station-road as the headquarters of the Rifle Club which was opened on Monday. It is proposed to open the room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm and on Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5. Competent instructors will eventually be approached.

## 1901

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

### PROCLAMATION OF KING EDWARD VII

It was decided to make the Proclamation on the following Monday. Long before the time appointed for the reading of the Proclamation and in spite of the inclement weather, a large crowd of people filled the Market-place. A platform had been erected outside the Town Hall and from here the Mayor, Councillor E.C. Hughes, in his robes and wearing his chain of office, read the Proclamation.

The High Steward (Mr. Walter of Bear Wood) was present as well as the Aldermen, Councillors, Honorary Constables, borough officials, Rector of St. Paul's (Rev. H.M. Walter). The Wokingham Company of Volunteers under the command of Lieuts. Cave and Simonds as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Company of Boys' Brigade under the command of their Captain (Rev. R. Nixon).

The children of the elementary schools stood close to the platform and at the conclusion of the reading of the Proclamation, sang the National Anthem accompanied by the Town Band.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Mayor entertained the Corporation, the officials, the volunteers and the Boys' Brigade in the Town Hall where the health of the King was loyally drunk. The members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade acted as escort to the Mayor.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May

At a meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April it was agreed that Messrs Buckmaster be asked to meet the committee to consider the best means of lighting the town hall. The committee decided that the lamplighters were their employees and under their sole control. At a meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April Mr. Wood of Buckmaster and Wood submitted a proposal for lighting the Town Hall. It was agreed the meeting be adjourned in order that specimens of the lights recommended might be [illegible] or tested.

Complaints had been received of lamps having been damaged in Havelock-road near the Railway Station. It was agreed that the police be instructed to investigate the matter with a view to prosecuting the offenders.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May

### FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The Volunteer Band met Private Pauline (Reserves) on Tuesday night at the Railway Station and, accompanied by a large crowd, of people played him to his home. Private Pauline has returned from South Africa.

20<sup>th</sup> July

## A NEW CHURCH HOUSE FOR WOKINGHAM

On Thursday Afternoon, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., in most perfect weather, Mrs. W. Howard Palmer laid the foundation stone of the new Church House for All Saints Parish, Wokingham. The ceremony was a brilliant one and among those present were the Rev. Canon Sturges and family, The Rev. E.G. Norris (St. Bartholomew's, Reading), the Rev. R. de M Nixon and A.P. Carn, the Rev. the Hon. A.G. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Melville, Colonel Walker and family, Major Barker and family, Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Blandy, Lady Katharine Eustace, Colonel and Mrs. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Hankey, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Surgeon-General E.E. Lloyd and family, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Rose, Mr. W. Howard Palmer, Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Mylne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ward, Miss Fuller, Miss F. Simmons, Miss Shorter, the Misses Pearman, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Ducroq etc.

A special form of service had been prepared. After an introductory address the Rector handed the trowel to Mrs Palmer, who laid the stone. Special prayers were then said

After which the Rector invited Mrs. Palmer's acceptance of the trowel. The contractor (Mr. Hughes) presenting in addition a mallet and spirit level.

Mr. Melville, one of the churchwardens, thanked the contributors, and Mr. W.B. Mower also a churchwarden, expressed the desire of the meeting for the successful completion of the undertaking.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the large party, at the invitation of Canon Sturges, adjourned to the Rectory garden, where an "at home" was held by Canon and Mrs. Sturges.

We learn from an official circular that the buildings proposed to be erected are from the designs of Messrs. Morris and Sons, architects of Reading and will include a main hall 45 feet by 30 feet, to seat 300, a committee room 24 feet by 16 feet, a store-room, tea-kitchen, cloak room and offices. The hall will be available for mission services, Sunday-schools etc. and the various meetings connected with the parish and diocese, while the smaller room will accommodate committees, clubs etc. The store-room will receive the various parish property now kept at the Rectory and elsewhere. The cost will amount to £1,600 of which all but £500 is now promised. The Rector has very generously guaranteed the amount needed.

The "raison d'être" for the scheme will be evident when it is stated that the increase in the population of All Saints' Parish for the past ten years is 618, and that 141 houses were built in that period, most of them in actual proximity to the new rooms. It is hoped that the scheme and the building may alike be completed in time, in the words of the circular, "to secure to the parish as a Christmas gift for 1901 a Church House complete, in full use, and free from debt."

The treasurers of the scheme, who form the executive committee, are the Rector and churchwardens, the bankers Messrs J. and C. Simonds and Co., and Mr. H. Benstead the hon. Secretary. The general committee includes the whole of the church and parish officers, also the following:- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, the Rev. the Hon. A.G. Campbell, Lady K. Eustace, Col. And Mrs. Ford, Mr. T.C. Garth, Mr. W.T. Hosler, Mrs. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Melville, Mrs. Mylne, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Ward, Mr. T.M. Wescott, Mr and Mrs. Weston.

The brilliant weather on Thursday contributed in no small degree to the pronounced success of the gathering.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Oct

## DEATH OF A WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are sorry to announce the death from enteric in South Africa, of Mr. T.W. Walker, late a member of the Wokingham Company of Volunteers. The deceased, before volunteering for South Africa, was employed in Wokingham Post Office.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

### PRESENTATION TO THE BERKS VOLUNTEERS AT WOKINGHAM

In the Wokingham Town Hall on Wednesday evening the Active Service members of the L. Co. Royal Berks Volunteers were presented with travelling clocks as a recognition of their service in South Africa. Among those present were the Mayor and Mrs Hughes, Alderman and Mrs. Wescott, Canon Sturges, Commander Gregorie, R.N., the Rev. R. Tomlinson, Mr. councillor Phillips, Mr. councillor Ifould, the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade., &c. The Active Service members present included Sergt. Binnie, Sergt. Barker, Privates Batt, Clay, Gough, Harrison, Hawkins, Macbeth, Milam and Webb. The parents of Private Walker, who died at the front, were also presented with a clock.

The Mayor said the Committee intended to present every member of the L. Co. of the Berkshire Volunteers who had served in South Africa with a memento, but the inhabitants of Ascot had formed a separate committee and presented the men with a sum of money. They had done their utmost to come to terms with the Ascot people but had not succeeded. He was sure the memento would be appreciated with much more than a gift of money.

Canon Sturges said that the men had left country, family, and home to represent their country in the struggle for liberty and, he believed, for the benefit of all the inhabitants of South Africa. They would treasure the presents, but he thought the memory of the hardships and trials through which they had gone would be their greatest treasures. The training they had gone through would be a great service to them. No training at home could be anything like it. He agreed with the Mayor that it was far better to receive a present which they could preserve than to go away with a couple of sovereigns in their pockets. In conclusion, he hoped they would experience many happy and prosperous years.

After a few remarks from Captain Gregorie, the Mayor made the presentations, and said that Wokingham ought to be proud of the men when the size of the town was taken into consideration. He believed that altogether 53 men went out. Only one had died, and a clock had been purchased for his relatives. Wokingham was exceedingly proud of the men who had served their country, and thankful that they had returned in such good health.

After the presentations, Sergt. Binnie, on behalf of himself and the men, returned thanks for the presents and the kind words that were spoken.

Votes of thanks to the Mayor and others who had taken part in the movements terminated the interesting proceedings.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

### THE MAYORAL BANQUET

It was mentioned that the main hall had recently been renovated with new lighting arrangements.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> April

Major Henry William Barker late of the 50<sup>th</sup> (now the 1<sup>st</sup> Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment) who died on Saturday at Chetwood, Wokingham aged sixty-five served in New Zealand from 1863 to 1866 and took part in many actions.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June

#### PEACE CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday evening the people of Wokingham celebrated the conclusion of the peace by a torchlight procession through the streets. A large bonfire lighted by the Mayoress and fireworks on Langborough. The Volunteer Band played in the evening and headed the procession.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June

#### WOKINGHAM AND THE CORONATION THE NEWS OF THE KING'S ILLNESS

Universal sorrow was manifested in Wokingham when it became known that the king was so seriously ill, and all preparations for the celebration of the Coronation were immediately suspended. The Press Association telegram, distributed from the *Reading Mercury Office*, was posted in prominent places, and a large number of people waited in the Market-place till a late hour for further news.

A meeting of the General Committee was called on Tuesday evening, but nothing definite was arranged. A further meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., when it was decided, in accordance with the King's wish, to give dinner on Thursday at 1 p.m. to the poor and the children's tea on the same day at 5 p.m., in a quiet manner. All the festivities are definitely postponed.

Services, it was decided, should be held in both Parish Churches on Thursday evening. -Being Bank Holiday the shops would close on Thursday, but open again on Friday.

#### DINNER IN THE MARKET PLACE TEA TO THE CHILDREN

In deference to his Majesty's wish that the arrangements for the Coronation should be carried out in spite of his serious illness, upwards of 700 persons sat down to dinner in the Market-place at Wokingham at one o'clock on Thursday. Grace was said by Canon Sturges., The dinner consisted of cold joints, hot potatoes, salad, plum pudding, beer and mineral waters being supplied. The meat was cooked by Mr. Alfred Clarke in 100 joints, and members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade cooked the potatoes in the Market-place.

The Market-place was filled with visitors during the afternoon. Cheers were given for the King, and the National Anthem was sung. When the persons who had received invitations had finished their meal all comers were served until the food was exhausted.

At five o'clock the children of the parish of Wokingham were entertained to tea in the tents erected in the Market-place, Mr. Chambers undertaking the catering. Upwards of 1,200 children has a bountiful tea, and were presented by the Mayor and Mayoress with a Coronation mug. At the conclusion of the tea the children marched to the end of Broad-street where the National Anthem was sung, and hearty cheers were given for the King and Queen and the Mayor and Mayoress.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov

## PRESENTATION

Mr. J Cook, manager of the Railway bookstall, Wokingham has this week been presented by many of the influential residents with a purse of money. Mr. Cook has removed to Basingstoke.

1903

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEED FOR INCREASED POSTAL FACILITIES

Mr. Evans moved that the Council petition his Majesty's Secretary of the Post Office for an additional delivery of letters in Wokingham at about 4 p.m., and further call the Postal Authorities' attention to the fact that though the number of letters received at the Wokingham Post Office is largely on the increase, the three daily deliveries are the same as they were when there were not nearly so many inhabitants-27 years ago.

The resolution was seconded and unanimously carried, the Mayor undertaking to write to the Member for the Division (Mr. Ernest Gardner) regarding the matter.

### A NEW ROAD HORSE BRUSH

Mr. Evans moved that a new road horse brush be purchased, and that the Surveyor be instructed to have it used as often as necessary to remove mud, or rubbish from the roads and streets in the borough, and to hire extra horsepower if required at any time.

Mr. White seconded, and the Mayor remarked that the initial cost would be about £40, and the upkeep about £60 a year.

Others having supported the motion, it was unanimously carried.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BELLS

The following are the inscriptions found on the six old bells of All Saints' Church, Wokingham:-

Treble: T. Mears, London; fecit 1814. 2<sup>nd</sup>: S.K., 1704. 3<sup>rd</sup>: S.K., 1703 (tracings of oak leaves and acorn). 4<sup>th</sup>: T. Mears, London: fecit 1814. 5<sup>th</sup>:S.K., John Hawes, Robert Hunt, C.W., 1704 (figure of a man). Tenor: Samuel Knight made this, pele; John Hawes, Robert Hunt, C.W., 1703. This bell also bears tracings of oak leaves and acorns.

It has been decided to re-cast No. 2 and 3 bells, which are out of tune, to quarter turn the other four, and to add two new trebles. The whole peal will be re-hung on a wrought iron frame on steel girders with a new floor between the bells. The work has been entrusted to Messrs. Webb and Bennett, and the cost is £328 17s. The contractors assure the completion of the work by next Easter-day.

### EMMBROOK

Mr. Peters, of Bill Hill, has generously given a portable Iron Room to be placed at the disposal of the Rector and churchwardens of St. Paul's and to be used for the benefit of the members of the Emmbrook Men's Club. This will enable the members to have a separate room for reading.

The Emmbrook Sunday School children were entertained to tea in the Mission Room on Wednesday evening. The Rev. H.M. Walter presided, and prizes were

distributed by Mrs. Henry Walter. After tea the children were entertained with a magic lantern, kindly provided by Mr. T. E. Ellison.

#### THE UNEMPLOYED

A large body of unemployed men from London marched through the town on Tuesday afternoon, begging en route.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

A successful dance was held in the Town Hall on Monday night, when nearly 100 persons were present. The dance was arranged by Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Buckmaster, and Mrs. Chambers. Breach's band supplied the music, and Mr. W. Chambers managed the refreshments. Messrs. Liseaman, Chambers and Craig acted as M.C.'s.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April

#### FIRE BRIGADE

Captain A. Hill M.P. has generously presented the Fire Brigade with a pair of massive "Salisbury Flario" lamps of 200 candlepower for use on the steam (fire engine) "Alert". Captain Hill's present is much appreciated by the members of the brigade.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May

We understand that the County Authorities have recently had under consideration the subject of improved police accommodation at Wokingham. There is room for improvement in this respect, the present buildings being inadequate and unsuitable, and unworthy of the centre of the important Forest Division. Negotiations for the acquisition of a site for the buildings are said to be proceeding. The proposed site is the ground belonging to Mr. P. Sale, and used as a nursery garden in the Rectory and Milton-roads. If report be correct, the new buildings will be extensive, and will comprise officers' quarters, stables, cells, offices, and magistrates clerk's office, and court room.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Aug

We understand that the offer of the Town Council of £1,500 for the purchase of their interest in the Police and Municipal buildings has been accepted by the Standing Joint Committee.

#### RESULT OF SALE

The property and business belonging to the late Mr. H. Barringer Hollis advertised for sale in last week's Mercury has been sold by Mr. James Watts to Mr. J.B. Pither of Swallowfield by private treaty.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The committee considered the question of improving the Terrace, and the surveyor was instructed to prepare comparative estimates of the cost. It was agreed to recommend that the central opening to the Terrace be closed for vehicular traffic, and a flight of steps constructed at that point; that the points be removed from the water

table in Reading-road, and the road surface be made level; and that the lower chain to the whole of the posts and chain fence be removed. The surveyor produced comparative estimates of the cost of repairing and improving in various ways the Terrace-road. It was agreed to recommend that the road be gravelled and made up.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Chief Constable of Berks. (Major Poulton), stating that the standing Joint Committee of the County Council had approved of the recommendation of the sub-committee that the offer of this Council of the sum of £1,500 to purchase their interest in the Police and Municipal Buildings should be accepted.

The Town clerk read a letter from the Board of Trade, in reply pointing out that the Board had no power to call upon the South Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railway Company to erect a bridge at the level crossing, and calling the Council's attention to the offer contained in the letter from the Company of Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to recommend that a copy of the letter from the Railway Company, promising procedure with the erection of a bridge, be forwarded to the Board, and also that the attention of the Board be called to the unsatisfactory method of opening and closing the gates by which unnecessary delay was caused.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct

#### ST. PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

A handsome marble cross has been erected in St. Paul's Churchyard to the memory of Mrs. Eades as a tribute to her faithful service as caretaker and attendant for many years.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### THE NEW POLICE STATION

The County Police Committee have purchased from Mr. P. Sale the site at the corner of the Milton and Rectory-roads, including trees and redemption of land tax, for £1,124. Plans have been prepared, and have been passed by H.M Commissioners of Prisons. Accommodation will be provided in the new buildings for one married superintendent, one married sergeant, two married constables, and four single constables. A magistrate's room, court-room, and a suitable number of police cells, will also be provided. Against the proposed outlay is to set the sale of the interest in the Municipal Buildings of Wokingham, for which the Urban District Council have agreed to pay £1,500.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

The Mace Bearer William Chambers was re-elected together with Honorary Constables Messrs Butler, Boshier, Higgs and Hawkins.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov

#### A MOTORIST FINED

The Marquis of Downshire, of Easthampstead Park, was fined £3 at West London Police Court on Thursday for driving a motor car at greater speed than twelve miles per hour.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### MAYOR IN ACCIDENT

Mr. E.C. Hughes met with an accident on Wednesday. A motor car coming round a bend in the road near Arborfield Hall frightened the horse which Mr. Hughes was driving and he was thrown from his trap and severely shaken.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March

#### DEATH AND FUNERAL OF SIR EDWARD WALTER

We announce with regret that Captain Sir Edward Walter, K.C.B., the well-known founder of the Corps of Commissionaires, died on Friday, at Branksome, Bournemouth, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year. Sir Edward was the third son of Mr. John Walter II, M.P. of Bear Wood (who died in 1847), and the youngest brother of John Walter III, who died in 1894. He was born in 1823 and, like his brother was educated at Eton and at Exeter College, Oxford. In 1843 he entered the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment as ensign, and served in it till 1847, in which year he exchanged into the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars as captain.

In 1853 he married Mary, daughter of the late Mr. J.C. Athorpe, of Dinnington-hall, Yorkshire, who survives him, after celebrating last year, their golden wedding, and he leaves one son, who now commands the 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars at Krugersdorp, and three daughters. Sir Edward lived for some years at Tangle, Wokingham.

Captain Walter's connection with the Army had impressed on him the disadvantage under which discharged soldiers laboured in obtaining civil employment after completing their period of service, and he determined to form a society which should assist deserving soldiers. With that end in view he established in 1859 what afterwards developed into the Corps of Commissionaires, of which he became the first commanding officer. Beginning with but eight men—of whom only one now survives—the numbers gradually increased, and hundreds of thousands of men who otherwise have been nearly destitute or absolutely in need have been able as members of the corps to obtain a respectable living.

The strength of the corps at the last annual meeting and inspection was 2,828, 1,818 of whom were comprised in the London division. He continued to be commanding officer of the Corps to the date of his death. It is pleasant to remember that in 1884 the Duke of Cambridge, the then Commander-in-Chief, presided at a great meeting of naval and military officers at the United Service Institution, when a silver service subscribed for by some 600 officers was presented to him, and further that his work and merits were recognised by Queen Victoria, who conferred a knighthood upon him in 1885, and at the time of her Jubilee in 1887, created him a K.C.B.

A tribute even more personally gratifying was bestowed on him by the men of the Corps, who subscribed to a portrait of him painted by Mrs. Way for presentation to Lady Walter.

Sir Edward Walter's nephew, Major F.E. Walter, who has long been associated with him in his work, and is now acting commanding officer of the Corps of Commissionaires, has addressed to the corps a letter announcing the death of its founder, giving a sketch of his labours in its interest, and concluding: "He is gone, and it now remains for those to whom are committed the interests of the great institution which he founded to see that the principles on which its organisation is based are strictly observed, and for all its members to prove themselves in the future, as they have done in the past, worthy representatives of the noble professions in which they have served."



Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April

At the Wokingham Town Hall on Thursday morning an enquiry was held by col. W. Langton Coke, an inspector of the Local Government Board with reference to the application of the Town Council for powers to borrow £1,500 for the purchase of the Berkshire County interest in the Municipal buildings at Wokingham and £350 for the purchase of the borough stores, which are at present on lease. There was no opposition for the application.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April

#### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Rev. Bertram Long accepted the rectory of Wokingham.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

For a long time the weather-cock on the spire of St. Paul's Church has become fixed and the rod bent. During this week steeplejacks have carried out the necessary repairs, their movements being keenly watched by the inhabitants.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### LADY ARTHUR HILL COMPOSES A MARCH

Lady Arthur Hill presented the Town Band with a march of her own composing, fully scored for military bands, in appreciation of the Band's rendering of music at Binfield Sports, recently held.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### FOOTBALL

The Wokingham Athletic Club opened their league programme on Saturday with a match against Old Bracknell Wanderers. The Bracknell Club however, were no match for the home club and the Athletes won very easily by seven goals to nil.

The Embrook F.C. went to Sunningdale to meet the local team in the same competition and were beaten by six goals to nil. Wokingham played a "friendly" with Broadmoor at Broadmoor, the match ending up in a draw of three goals.

#### WESLEYAN BAND OF HOPE

A meeting was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Monday, when there was a good attendance. Among those who contributed to the programme were Mrs. Webb, Misses Drinkwater, Archer, Key, Hawkins and Gadd.

#### FIRE BRIGADE

On Wednesday evening at a meeting of the members of the Fire Brigade, Mr. J. Caiger was elected to the lieutenantancy in the place of the late Mr. C. Brant.

## 1905

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE FURNISHING OF THE TOWN HALL

Mr. Manley moved that a committee comprising about one half of the Council be appointed, and that a corresponding number of representative persons outside the council be invited to consider and submit proposals for the proper furnishing of the

Town Hall. He did not think it very creditable for them to have a Town Hall and then furnish it badly. At Wargrave they possessed an inexpensive Town Hall which was splendidly furnished and a credit to the village.

No one seconded the motion and it fell to the ground.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### CHURCH HOUSE

A popular entertainment was given on Saturday evening in the Church House the programme being arranged by the Misses Daniell and Cooper. The Rev. B. Long presided, and songs were sung by Messrs. Jay and W. Funnell. Mr. Bassett's gramophone was appreciated, as was Mr. Walker's lecture on "Coal and Coal Mining," the lantern being manipulated by the Rector. Mr. H.G. Powell gave two recitations, "The Midnight Charge" and "The Charge of the Light Brigade." Miss Fielder contributed a pianoforte solo and with her sister, a duet. Misses Funnell and Fielder were the accompanists.

#### CHRISTMAS TREES

The annual Christmas-trees for the children of the Palmer Schools were given—to the infants on Saturday and to the children of the mixed school on Monday. Two fine fir trees were presented and both were loaded with presents, which had been subscribed for by various friends of the School. Mr. Foy, as usual, presented a box of oranges.

#### THE CHAPELS

In continuance of the week of special united prayer meetings at the Nonconformist places of worship in the town, a united communion service was held at the Milton-road Baptist Chapel on Sunday evening.

#### MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A musical and social programme was provided by the members on Wednesday evening at the re-opening of the second session of the evening. Mr. P. Sale presided and Messrs. Bodle and E.J. Taylor (vice-presidents), and Mr. Hay (the hon. Secretary) were also present. The programme was carried out by Miss Fielder and Messrs. Shore, Holloway, T.W. Hawkins and W.E. Whittingham.

#### GROSVENOR SCHOOL, WOKINGHAM

Miss E.M. Gammon, pupil of Miss Baker, has passed the Trinity Theory Examination, Intermediate Division. The school will re-open on Thursday next, January 19, boarders returning on the previous day.

#### WOKINGHAM CLUB

At the recent billiard handicap held at the Club House, Denmark-street, Mr. T. Morres was the winner of the first prize, Mr. A.T. Jones being second.

#### TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Town Band was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. The Mayor of Wokingham (Mr. H.C. Mylne) presided. A

very successful season, with increased engagements, &c., was reported, and there was a balance in hand of over £9.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June

#### HOSPITAL SUNDAY

The annual parade and collection on behalf of the funds of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, organised by the local Friendly Societies, was held on Sunday, when the weather was fine and the parade a great success. The various bodies assembled in the Market-place at 1.30, an early collection having been made on the outskirts of the town. The procession was divided into two parts, marshalled by Mr. W. Cansdale and Mr. W. Parker. The bands taking part included the Town Band, Bugle Band of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Wokingham Company Boys' Brigade, Reading Headquarters Bugle Band, and the L Company Volunteer Band. The full procession proceeded by way of Broad-street and Rose-street to All Saints' Church. The Mayor (Councillor H.C. Mylne) was present at the service, and Ald. Wescott and Heron, Councillors Culver, Ellison, Martin, Manley, Evans and Powell were also present. The Rev. B Long preached an appropriate sermon from St Mark ii,3. The total collections throughout the day amounted to £45 14 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. the bands played selections of music in the Market-place during the evening, when a large crowd assembled.

#### PROPOSED NEW BY-LAW

The Wokingham Town Council have made, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, a new by-law with reference to the regulation of steam organs, roundabouts etc. which may visit the Borough from time to time. Copies of the proposed by-law are deposited at the Town Clerk's office for the inspection of any ratepayer who is interested in the matter. An advertisement on the subject appears on the first page of today's Mercury.

#### NEW POLICE BUILDINGS

These buildings, which were used last week for the transaction of business, are well situated at the corner of Rectory-road and Milton-road. The chief entrance to the court is under a picturesque tower, with bold stone arches and buttresses, covered by a spiral tiled roof, terminating with a weather vane in the shape of the country arms, with the stag under a tree. The court room is 40 ft. by 20 ft. with open timbered roof and lofty mullioned windows, fitted with leaded lights and iron casements. The walls are faced internally with fair brickwork, with a dado of pale green dull glazed glass tiles. The floor is pitch pine blocks, and the fittings are of oak, fumed and waxed. The walls externally of the whole building are faced with bricks of two tints, worked in panels and relieved by Bath stone in courses and dressings. The roofs are covered with brown tiles, and the broken outlines and many gables yield a pleasing and picturesque effect to the large group of buildings.

The court room and cells are warmed with by hot water upon the plan prepared and carried out by Renton, Gibbs and Co., of Liverpool and Reading. The building had been erected in a very creditable manner by Mr. E.C. Hughes, builder of Wokingham, under the direction of the architects, Messrs. Joseph Morris and Son, of Broadway Buildings, Reading. The magistrates' chairs and the furniture of the magistrates' room have been supplied by Messrs. Heelas, Sons and Co. The bricks and tiles, which are of excellent quality, came from the Ruscombe Kilns.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> July

### HUNT CRICKET MATCH AT HEATHLANDS

That popular annual event, the cricket match, between the Garth and the South Berks Hunts as advertised, will take place at Heathlands on Thursday next, when Mr. Howard Palmer will be pleased to see the farmers of both hunts in the afternoon.

### A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

About 5.30 on Monday afternoon, an accident occurred at the premises of Messrs. Lush Bros., coach builders, Peach-street. It appears that the head of a 'bus had been brought to the stores in Peach-street, and was being unloaded from the firm's own van, the horse being held by a lad in their employ. Messrs. Walter and Charles Lush were below in the van, and Messrs Frank Lush and J. Hopkins were at the pulley rope above. The head weighing several hundredweight, had been raised a few feet in the air, when the horse moved on and overpowering the lad, bolted. The two men in the van were thrown violently out, and both lay unconscious until picked up, which was not for some time, as all who could have rendered assistance were in pursuit of the runaway horse.

A Mrs. Hull, who was passing, pluckily helped to relieve the weight by holding up the load, which was proving a great strain on the muscles of the two men in the loft. Mr. C. Lush was in a most dangerous position, being immediately beneath the suspended weight. The shouts of the men presently brought some assistance, and Mr. Lush being removed, the heavy 'bus head was lowered to the ground, and both the injured men were assisted to their houses.

Dr. Ward was called, and Mr. W. Lush was found to have several ribs broken, and was cut about the head. Mr. C. Lush, although outwardly not much hurt, seems to have received injury, it is feared, of rather a grave character. Great sympathy is expressed for the injured members of the firm.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Aug

### POLICE AT CRICKET

On Monday the Wokingham Division Police C.C. journeyed by bicycle to Windsor and engaged in a very pleasant game of cricket. The total scores were: Windsor 67; Wokingham 70.

Mr & Mrs. Makepiece owned The Elms.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.1905

November 1905 the following were re-appointed:

Mace Bearer: W. Chambers; Honorary Constables: G. Buller, J. Boshier, W. Higgs, E. Hawkins. Town Crier: J. Taylor.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

### WOKINGHAM AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Prince Christian has presented to the Wokingham Agricultural Association a prize boar for the use of the members of the Association and of the farmers of the Garth Hunt with a view to preserving the breed of pigs in the district. One of the boar's offspring won a second prize at the Smithfield Cattle Show this year. The boar is at Mr. E.M. Sturge's Farm at Barkham.

### LODGE OF THE GOOD TEMPLARS

A pleasant entertainment was given by the Wokingham Lodge of Good Templars on Monday, in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Mr. W. Bodle presided in the absence of Mr. P. Sale. The members of the Bracknell Lodge visited and provided a portion of the programme. The Chairman gave an interesting and helpful address.

### EMBROOK HOUSE WOKINGHAM

Last week Messrs. Simmons and Sons, of Henley, Reading, and Basingstoke, held a three days' sale for the executors of the late Mr. C.M. Vialls. On the first day the furniture was disposed of at highly satisfactory prices. The second days' sale comprised the books, china plate, pictures and wine, bringing buyers in very large numbers from London, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, Oxford, Reading, Guildford, Maidenhead, Camberley and Wokingham.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Reading Observer

### TEMPERANCE MEETING

Under the auspices of the Milton-road Christian Endeavour Society, an "open" meeting was held in the Lecture Room, Milton-road, on Thursday evening. Invitations had been extended to the various temperance workers of the town, and there was a good muster. The Rev. E.E. Smith presided. Solos were sung by Mrs. Manley and Miss Kent; Miss Walden and Miss Cordery acting as accompanists. An excellent address was given by Mr. H. Stransom, of Reading, and other speakers were Messrs. T.W. Hawkins and M. Blake. The innovation on the part of the C.E. Society was considered a success, and will doubtless be repeated.

### A NEW CLUB

There has been recently formed, and is now in good working order, a new club for Wokingham, under the auspices of the Wokingham Athletic Football Club, to be known as "The Athenseum." The object of the club, which is to be of a social and literary character, is "to bring the members and friends (i.e. of the W.A.F.C.) together in the evening to hold debates, concerts, boxing, and later on, perhaps, gymnastics." The old wool stores, No. 1, Rose-street, have been taken by the management, and have been transformed into an effective suite of rooms for club purposes. There is a reading room and table tennis court on the ground floor, while above is a long room 100 feet by 20 feet, available for meetings, also a billiard room, 35 feet by 20 feet. A fine billiard table has been purchased, also a semi-grand piano. Several gentlemen of the neighbourhood have subscribed liberally to start the club, and Mr. E. Ifould has kindly consented to be the president.

The officers of the club have been selected as follows: Hon. treasurer, Mr. H.E. Hall; hon. sec., Mr. A.G. Hall; hon. assistant secretary, Mr. E.J. Ifould; committee, Messrs. S.J. Butler, L. Butler, E.J. Chase, A.C. Hughes, W.H. Howard, M. Grove, E.H. Perkins and H. Watts. There are already 62 members.

1906

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan

### NEW COUNCIL SCHOOL AT WOKINGHAM.

On Monday afternoon the Wescott-road Council School, Wokingham, was opened by Mrs. Murdoch in the presence of a large and representative company. The Mayor

(Mr. H.C. Mylne) presided, and there were also present: Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. H.G. Willink, Mr. C.A. Ferard, Miss F.M. Wyld (members of the Education Committee), Mr. T.E. Ellison, the Rev. H.M. and Mrs. Walter, Commander and Mrs. Gregorie, the Rev. P.H. and Mrs. Ditchfield, the Rev. A.P. Carr, the Rev. E.E. and Mrs. Smith, The Rev. J and Mrs. Stratton, Miss Cave, Mr. and Mrs. Denis de Vitre, Mr. and Mrs. W. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Boshier, Mr. and Mrs. E. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. P. Sale, Mr. and Mrs. H. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Evans (managers of schools in Wokingham, Mr. Murray-Spey, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goswell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Baker, Mrs. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Mr. W.O.F. Anderson (Secretary to the Berkshire Education Committee), Mr. A. Shirley (assistant secretary), and the following officials:-- Mr. T.O. Willson, Mr. Wallace Sergeant, Mr. W. Challenor, Mr. H.F. Kearsley, Mr. E.L. Slade, Mr. E. Fisher (architect), Mr. W. Watson (contractor), and the teachers of the district.

The Mayor said that at present there were 1,007 children attending school at Wokingham; there were on the books 496 at Palmer School, 288 at St. Paul's and lately at the British 223. The Managers of the British School found themselves unable to comply with the requirements of the Board of Education and the school had been closed. The accommodation for the district served had therefore fallen short of what was required, hence the erection by the County Council of that magnificent building. When that school was opened there would be accommodation in Wokingham for 1,281 children, namely, 515 in Palmer School and 366 in St. Paul's, the Council School taking 400. The new school would in all probability be sufficient for the wants of Wokingham for many years. Wokingham had reason to be proud of the educational machinery it now possessed, namely three large schools all thoroughly equipped and having the approval of the Inspector of the Board of Education. Let them hope that it might be part of that new school to send out its scholars thoroughly equipped to bear their part in the battle life, and in whatsoever part of the battlefield their place might be. (Applause.)

Mr. W.C.F. Anderson (the Secretary of the Berks Education Committee) read several letters of apology at non-attendance. That building, he said, represented the latest views of the Board of Education on school architecture. It was admirably lighted and sub-divided into class-rooms requisite to a good-sized class, but not too large. The Board of Education laid very great stress on the point that classes should not be too large. The staff was practically the same as at the old British School. With regard to the management of the school, the County Education Committee had nominated four managers, and there were also representatives of St. Paul's and Palmer School. The Education Committee regarded it of the utmost importance that the school should work in the greatest possible harmony with the other schools. So far as the County Committee was concerned it made no difference which school a child attended. In planning the school the committee took into consideration that the country and the people of Wokingham would be paying off the cost for 30 years, and they arranged it so that no more buildings would be wanted for the next ten years. One room would be specially devoted to evening classes, more particularly in regard to art, so that a need much felt in Wokingham would be supplied.

Mrs. Murdoch then declared the school open.

(more speeches followed)

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

The town hall was to be altered to include the office of the borough surveyor.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May Reading Observer

#### EMPIRE DAY

Thursday last, being Empire Day, the children of the elementary schools of the town were given a holiday. Flags were hoisted on the Municipal and other buildings. Special reference was made in the schools to the life and work of Queen Victoria, and the progress of the Empire during her long and prosperous reign.

#### BAND "SOCIAL"

On Wednesday, another successful Volunteer Band "social" was held in the church House. In addition to the band, the following contributed to the evening's programme:-Misses Holloway and Golds and Messrs. Funnell and Golds, Mrs. S. Butler and Mrs. Hewett were in charge of the refreshments. A pleasant evening was spent.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July

#### BAND OF HOPE OUTING

The members of the Wokingham Band of Hope had a pleasant outing on Wednesday afternoon. Assembling at the British School a start was made about four o'clock, and the party, some 42 in number, with their officers, were conveyed in vans to Shepperlands Farm, Finchampstead, where, by kind permission of Mr. J. Loader, the occupier, a very pleasant time was spent. Tea was served in a meadow to the children, the visitors sitting down to tea in the barn.

Games, etc., were indulged in, and Mr. J. Godfrey, of Reading, showed a van load of very clever working railway models. Among the officers and friends of the Band of Hope present were: Mr. J. Bodle (hon. secretary), Mr. J.J. Evans, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Bodle, Messrs. T. Butler, R.D. Ayers, C. Green, S. Drake (Finchampstead), Misses Cordery, Kirkby and Maynard. An enjoyable ride home concluded a very happy outing.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July Reading Observer

#### VOLUNTEER ORDERS

The annual church parade will take place on Sunday next, at All Saints Church. Fall In at the Drill Hall at 10.30 a.m. Dress—Tunic, blue trousers, helmets, and side arms.—By order, D.F. Denis de Vitre, Capt.

#### MOTOR ACCIDENT

At midnight, on Sunday, an accident befell Charles Hooton, chauffeur to Capt. Arthur Hill. It appears that Hooton had driven a car to Barkham with some ladies, whom he left at their home, and was returning alone. When descending Barkham-hill, one of the lamps went out, and the machine by some cause swerved to the side of the road. In the attempt to right it the motor ran up the bank and turned a complete somersault, with Hooton pinned down beneath it. He seems to have lost consciousness for a little time, and some three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he could extricate himself. With assistance requisitioned from some cottagers living at the top of the hill, the car eventually righted, and Hooton subsequently drove it to the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, where he is staying with Capt. Hill.

In addition to the shock and bruises, the unfortunate chauffeur is suffering from the effect of the escaping petrol upon his eyes, which since the accident have required to be bandaged. Fortunately, on the car overturning, the lamps were extinguished.

## A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS

Early on Thursday morning a carter, named Charles Smith, employed by Mr. T.W. Shefford, of Norreys Barn Farm, Wokingham, was riding in an empty coal cart down Shute End, when the horse stumbled, throwing Smith forward out of the cart. The horse struggled to its feet and Smith was unfortunately run over by one of the wheels, severely bruising his left leg above the knee. Assistance was at hand and the injured man was conveyed to his home in Wiltshire-road. Medical aid was called in, and he will be laid up for a week or two.

The same afternoon in the Wellington-road, the driver of the S.E. and C.R. station goods delivery van, Charles Hawkins, was thrown from his "dickey" with some violence on to the road, near the small gate leading into the cricket ground, owing to the shifting of a large box forming a part of the load of empties with which he was returning to the station. The horse ran away, but was stopped near the level crossing. Hawkins was picked up unconscious and conveyed by Mr. S. Withers, who was passing, to his lodgings in Havelock-road. He sustained injuries to his shoulder, upon which he fell, and also to his head.

## CARRIAGE ACCIDENT

At East Heath, on Wednesday afternoon, an accident of an alarming character occurred, with results that might easily have been far more serious. It appears that Mrs. Garrard, of East Heath Lodge, and her two daughters, had been driven in a carriage and pair by her coachman (Evans) to the Finchampstead flower show, at Northcourt, the residence of Sir John Watson. The party were returning, and when near the Finchampstead old police station, the horses, alarmed by a motor car, became frightened, and bolted in the direction of their home. They proceeded at a terrific pace, and unfortunately the coupling strap of the double reins broke, thus depriving the coachman of the control of the most restive of the two animals. Continuing, the horses traversed the two and a half miles to *The Poplars*, East Heath, in a very few minutes. Here they turned to the right, and instead of proceeding down the hill and under the S.W.R. bridge, dashed with great force into the wooden fence of Mr. Wescott's meadow. One horse seems to have jumped over the obstruction, while the other dashed into the rails. A post in the centre held firm, and the horses were thus brought to a standstill, one on each side of the fence, with the vehicle behind them. Evans was pitched clean over the horses' heads into the meadow. He picked himself up, and assistance quickly arriving, the ladies left the carriage, while the coachman was able to walk to his home near at hand. He was later seen by Dr. Ward and his injuries attended to. Mrs. Garrard and her daughters were naturally much alarmed, but fortunately escaped injury. The horses were considerably cut about. The coachman Evans was subsequently found to be suffering from a dislocated thigh bone.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept Reading Observer

## ALARMING FIRE

On Sunday morning, about 9.30, on the S.W. railway just above the Tanglely footbridge, the grass beside the track became ignited, presumably by a spark from a passing engine. The fire was soon put out by a couple of lads. Two hours later a more serious blaze took place. This time the grass in the field as well as that on the embankment caught alight, spreading to neighbouring fences, hedges, and even to the trees in Gipsy-lane. Crossing the lane, it set the hedge alight surrounding the garden of Brace's Cottage, in the occupation of Mrs. Aldridge. The flames were at one time so close to the cottage that some creepers growing on the walls were burnt.



Several members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, including Lieut. F. Caiger, and Fireman A.T. Heelas and F.G. Martin, were present, but were, from lack of water supply, obliged to confine their efforts to removing different objects from the course of the fire, and to beating it down with branches. A ganger's shed on the embankment containing a barrel of tar and numerous sleepers was burnt out. The planks covering a stack of bricks belonging to Messrs. Stimson and Sons were also badly burnt. The safety of some pigs in a sty belonging to a Mr. Langley, was for some time in doubt but the animals were safely removed. Numbers of people were drawn to the scene by the sight of the smoke and flames.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1906 Reading Observer

#### TERMINATION OF OFFICE OF W. CHAMBERS

With the termination of Mr. W. Chamber's tenure of office today (Saturday) as Town Hall Keeper and Collector of Tolls for the Municipality of Wokingham, an interesting family collection with the civic life and history of Wokingham become a closed chapter. The name of Chambers and Wokingham municipal affairs have for wellnigh two centuries been inseparable. A. Chambers has carried the mace, "cried" through the town, collected the market tolls and proclaimed royal proclamations for a period extending far back beyond the time of any living Wokinghamites. Father, grandfather and great-uncles of Mr. Wm. Chambers have for long years sustained an honourable position under the present Corporation and its predecessor, the Wokingham Local Board. In quaint costume and with equally quaint character, one Tom Chambers still lingers in the memories of "the oldest inhabitants" as town crier, sexton and general town's official. "The old order changeth, giving place to the new."

May the town still flourish under the new regime as it has done under the old.

The Wokingham Town Band played a selection of music on Sunday afternoon (Mr. W. Farr conducting), when a collection was taken in aid of the funds of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

#### FOOTBALL

On Saturday last Wokingham Athletic opened their season on the Wiltshire-road ground by entertaining Reading Y.M.C.A. before about 100 spectators. The game resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Athletics, who led by 7-0 at half-time, and 14-0 at full time. It was sufficient, however, to show that the locals have secured two splendid new men in Drake and Hope. The goals were secured by Phippe (10), Thatcher (2), and Jarvis (2).

#### RIFLE CLUB

The cup challenge competition was brought to a close with a shoot at the range on Wednesday afternoon. The winner was Mr. A.G. Hall, with a score of 95 points. He becomes the holder of the cup for the year, a replica being presented to him. The monthly spoon shoot was held at the same place, Mr. A.G. Hall being the winner of the "skilled shot" badge with 95 points, Mr. T.E. Ellison winning the club spoon with 98 points (15 added). Mr. P.W. Teague won the second spoon with some 95 points (five added.)

Sat Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

James May was elected town clerk.

## 1907

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jan Reading Observer

### TWO FINE PIKE

Two fine pike were successfully landed on Monday from the Loddon by Mr. W. Reynolds, assisted by Mr. Holloway, of Wokingham. One weighed 12 lb. and the other 10½. Strange to say both were caught in the same place and within a quarter of an hour of each other.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan Reading Observer

### THE MAYOR'S CHILDREN'S PARTY

On Friday afternoon in last week, the Mayor (Mr. W.T. Martin) and Mayoress gave an invitation party to a large number of the children of the Borough. The party was held in the Town Hall, from 4.30 to 8.30 p.m. The guests were received in the Council Chamber by the Mayor and Mayoress, the latter being presented by Miss Wescott with a splendid basket of exotics, daintily tied with salmon pink satin. The red and white draping of the doorways, combined with the flags festooned above, and the foliage on the bandstand, fireplaces and elsewhere, making a very effective display. The floor was covered with red baize with the exception of a large square in the centre, reserved and prepared for dancing. Refreshments were laid in the Council Chamber, and also in the ante-room at the other end of the hall. Lounges and small tables arranged around the dancing area afforded excellent opportunity for watching the dancing or for social intercourse. Mr. W. Chambers was entrusted with the catering, the upholstering was done by Messrs. Gadd and Co., the floral decorations were supplied by Mr. G.F. Pontin, the floor coverings and the hangings by Mr. R. Yalden, while Mr. A. Fox prepared a splendid floor for the dancing.

The young visitors were entertained in a variety of forms, their host and hostess, with a number of their friends, doing all in their power to make them happy. Mr. Alan, Stainer of London, gave a capital legerdemain and ventriloquial performance. Mr. C.H. Martin a "Father Christmas," assisted by Master Clode (a goblin) distributed bon-bons amid much merriment. Members of the Royal Military College Band, Sandhurst, discoursed some excellent music for the various dances.

The proceedings terminated with a "friendship's chain" of the whole company to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." Three cheers were heartily accorded the Mayor and Mayoress for their kindness, and the large party dispersed expressing many thanks for their hospitality. After an interval of half-an-hour, a large number of guests assembled for a dance, which was continued until midnight. (all participants listed)

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb Reading Observer

### EMMBROOK MISSION ROOM

A successful entertainment was held on Wednesday evening in the Emmbrook Mission Room, in aid of the Emmbrook Young Men's Club. The Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter) presided. The Misses Long contributed a Japanese duet in costume and Mr. R.T. Butler gave an excellent exhibition of conjuring tricks, etc. several other performers also delighted the audience.

### WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

A successful meeting of the East Berks. Women's Liberal Association (Wokingham Branch) was held on Tuesday evening. The meeting, which was conducted and carried through by one of the members, proved very interesting. An excellent address on current politics was given by Mr. C.H. Baker of Reading. Mr. W. Ford (Maidenhead) was also present. It was arranged that on February 13<sup>th</sup> Sir Berry Cusack-Smith, the prospective Liberal candidate for the division, should open a debate on "The Taxation of Land Values." A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Baker for his address.

#### WOKINGHAM MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Wokingham Magpies Cricket Club was held on Saturday at the Working Men's Club Room, Peach-street, by kind permission. The members attended in good numbers, Mr. W. Langley presiding. The hon. sec. Mr. A.E. Jones, presented the balance sheet, which showed a small deficit balance of £1 5s. 4d., due merely to heavy expenditure of rent and expenses of re-laying the ground, the Club possessing valuable assets as an efficient set-off. The balance sheet was adopted amid expressions of satisfaction. The officers and committee were then elected. Canon Sturges was unanimously re-elected president. The vice-presidents were re-elected en bloc. The post of hon. treasurer, vacant by the removal of the Rev. A.P. Carr, was left unfilled, the Club deciding to wait and to offer the post to the rev. gentleman's successor when he arrives. Mr. A.H. Jones was re-elected hon. secretary, and was also elected captain, with Mr. R. Challis as vice-captain.

Mr. H. Frith was chosen captain and Mr. E.T. Huckings sub-captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Goddard, seconded by Mr. R. Challis, it was decided that the Club's first eleven enter the first division of the Reading and District Cricket League. It was also decided to enter the second eleven in the second division of the League. It was resolved to continue to rent the football ground for matches and practice at £4 a year.

The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the hon. sec. This and a similar vote to the outgoing officers brought a very successful meeting to a close.

The record of the Club for 1906 was a good one. The 1st XI played eleven league matches, winning five and losing six. The team secured fourth place on the league table. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI played nine friendly games, winning five and losing four. Mr. J. Webb secured a century playing in a league match on the home ground against Reading Excelsior. He also headed the list of batting honours with 180 runs for seven completed innings, an average of 22.8. Mr. E. Cousins was a good second, with 134 runs for eleven completed innings. Mr. Jones headed the bowlers with 17 wickets for 46 runs, Messrs. E. Cousins and J. Webb following close with 30 wickets for 112 and 21 for 94 respectively. The club recognised its indebtedness to Messrs. Mitchell, F. and S. Berry, R. Challis, Sharp and Martin for various services rendered.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Reading Observer

#### FREE SOUP

The Mayoress, Mrs. W.T. Martin, is very kindly making and distributing twice weekly some 25 gallons of well-made soup to a number of recipients who greatly appreciate her generosity.

#### MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE

Yesterday Col. Arthur Walter opened and fired the first shot at the miniature rifle range which has been provided at the expense of Mr. Cllr. Ellison. The Colonel was

present with the Mayor and Corporation, General Sir John Watson and several military officers.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Feb Reading Observer

#### THE NEW MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE

Mr. T.E. Ellison's public spirit and patriotism with regard to shooting has led him to build at his own expense a miniature rifle range, and the same was formally opened on Friday afternoon in last week. The boys of St. Paul's School cadet corps, which body owes its formation to the keen interest of Mr. Ellison, were present as a guard of honour. Mr. T.W. Hawkins was in command. The salute was given to General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., and also to Col. A.F. Walter, upon their entrance. Each gentleman showed a kindly interest in the guard and inspected them. Mr. Ellison presented two of the lads, who had made excellent attendance at the drills, with a splendid knife. The lads thus honoured were Samuel Green (Corporal) and Henry Rowe.

The range occupies the site of the terrace room and ground in the rear. The existing buildings have been adapted for the purpose by Messrs. Lewis and son, of Wokingham. The old terrace room provides a commodious drill hall for the Cadet Corps. In the rear of this room is another smaller one, through which the range itself is reached, via a courtyard and flight of steps. The range proper is admirably adapted for the purpose, full advantage having been taken of the natural rise in the ground. The targets lie at the further end, where a wall of double thickness ensures the safe stoppage of all shots. The targets and markers occupy a pit, the markers having on each side a substantial mound of earth and batten behind which to shelter. A few feet nearer the firing station is a trench constructed and arranged for "running man" and "disappearing" targets. The whole building is 144 feet in length, with a width of 24 feet, and is admirably lighted, ventilated and warmed, with every appliance for target practice, including an inclined platform for the prone position when firing.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March Reading Observer

#### ANGLING

Fishing in the Loddon, on Tuesday, Mr. E. Holloway, of Wokingham, successfully landed a pike, in good condition, weighing 14½ lbs. Also a smaller one, which turned the scales at 4½ lbs.

#### MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The Rev. A.P. Carr has been presented by the members of this club with a solid silver cigarette case, beautifully engraved, and with initials on the front, as a slight recognition of the valuable services he has rendered the club for the past eight years. Mr. A.H. Jones (the hon. sec.), has received a very nice letter from Mr. Carr who wishes the club every success.

#### FIRE

A fire occurred on Tuesday morning in the centre of the town at premises occupied by Mrs. K. Pigg, confectioner, etc. It seems that the attention of an employee of Mrs. Pigg's was called by a passer by to smoke issuing from the roof of a building (the bake-house) in Rose-street. It was soon discovered that a fire had broken out in a room above the bake-house used as a drying room. The fire brigade were summoned, and, quickly arriving at the spot, they put in some prompt and excellent work, the hose being connected with one of the street hydrants. The flames at one time broke through the roof, but were very soon subdued. The damage was fortunately confined

to the building in which the outbreak started. This was a fortunate circumstance, as the building is directly attached to the house itself, and outbuildings are also clustered thickly around. The damage is, we understand, covered by insurance. The oven was not damaged. Mr. G.A. Pigg, it may be mentioned, is himself a member of the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March Reading Observer

#### MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE ENGAGEMENT

The Marquis of Downshire was engaged to Miss Evelyn Foster daughter of Mr. Edmund Foster of Clewes Manor, Windsor. On Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May they married.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Reading Observer

Elected: Hon Constables: E. Hawkins, G. Butler, W. Higgs and J. Boshier. Town Crier was J. Taylor.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov Reading Observer

Marriage of Miss Lillian Ann Ifould, youngest daughter of Edwin Ifould, was married on Wednesday to Mr. Young Phillip son of Mr. and Mrs Phillip of Southsea.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov Reading Observer

Sergt.-At-Mace was W. Chambers.

## 1908

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### CHRISTMAS-TREE

On Saturday Miss Ellison gave a Christmas-tree in St. Paul's Parish Room to the girls of her sewing class. Tea was served and gifts from the tree were afterwards distributed.

#### FOR THE POOR

The offertories on Christmas day at All Saints' Church for the sick and needy amounted to £27 4s. 4d., and at St. Paul's to £9 8s. 4d.

#### DINNER AT THE ROSE HOTEL

Mrs. Churchman, proprietress of the Rose Hotel, gave her annual dinner in commemoration of her birthday on Friday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, when she invited a few friends to meet the members of the local Fire Brigade. Mr. Ernest Gardner, M.P. for East Berks, presided, supported by the Marquis of Downshire, Ald. D.N. Heron, Mr. W. T. Martin (deputy Mayor), Mr. Kington, Mr. James May (Town Clerk), Captain Barry, and Messrs. E.C. Hughes, T.H. Bokenham, H.E. Hall, E.W. Collis, &c., and the vice-chair was filled by Mr. Edwin Ifould (capt. and hon. treasurer of the Fire Brigade), the company numbering altogether 57. The function was, as usual, a most pleasant and successful one.

The Chairman having proposed "The King," Mr. Hughes gave the toast of the "Fire Brigade," saying they were a fine body of men, and a credit to the town; and Captain Ifould, responding, expressed pleasure that the services of the body under his command were so recognised and appreciated. Among their number was a Fireman—

the Marquis of Downshire—who was not only a nobleman, but an ornament to the Brigade, of which he was an efficient member.

Lieut. Caiger also returned thanks, Mr. Gardner, M.P., in proposing Mrs. Churchman's health, thanked her in the name of all her guests for her kind invitation that evening. He said he first met Mrs. Churchman some years ago as a politician; but since then he had ample opportunity of observing and appreciating her kindness of heart, and he was sure all associated with her were of the same opinion. There was always associated with her the feeling of old-fashioned friendly English life, and a truly British hospitality marked everything she did. They all trusted she would be long spared as hostess of "The Rose," and wished her "Many happy returns of the Day." The toast was drunk with musical honours, and acknowledged on Mrs. Churchman's behalf by Mr. Kington.

The Chairman then presented Mrs. Churchman, on behalf of those present, with a silver hot-water jug of Queen Anne pattern, as a slight token of their appreciation; and the hostess was heartily cheered when she said a few appropriate words in reply.

The health of the Chairman having been toasted on the call of the deputy-Mayor, Mr. Gardner, M.P., expressed the pleasure it had given him to preside that evening, and said he was sorry to have to leave to catch the train. He always felt welcomed when at the Rose Hotel, and he hoped that, although that was his first attendance at that pleasant gathering, it would not be the last.

The ex-Mayor then took the chair, and the rest of the evening was spent in harmony. Capt. Barry and Mr. A. Hall recited, and capital songs were given by Capt. Ifould, Ald. Heron, Mr. Sid Butler, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Collis, Mr. C.H. Martin, Mr. Thorp, Mr. May, Mr. Perry, Mr. Sharp and others; and Mr. Reginald T. Butler performed some clever tricks of legerdemain. The National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne" brought an altogether enjoyable evening to a close.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### ACCIDENT TO A MOTOR CYCLIST

On Boxing-day morning, whilst Mr. Arthur T. Heelas, of "Oakleigh," Wokingham, was out for a ride on his motor-cycle near Finchampstead, he met with a somewhat severe accident. He was proceeding round a corner from the Wokingham-road towards the "Queen's Head" at Finchampstead, and sounded his horn several times. Apparently the high hedges at the spot prevented the occupants of an approaching motor-car from hearing the blasts, and on Mr. Heelas getting into the main road a collision occurred owing to the narrowness of the road. The motor-car—a large one—containing the two sons of the Rev. Dr. Warre, late Headmaster of Eton, and the one presented to Dr. Warre by old Etonians on his retirement; crashed into the side of the motor-cycle, practically stripping everything off it. Mr. Heelas was thrown to the ground with the cycle on top of him. He managed to wriggle himself free and to lift the machine up.

Meanwhile the motor-car had been pulled up a few yards away and Dr. Warre's sons returned and rendered Mr. Heelas every assistance. Lifting him into the car they drove him to his home at Wokingham, where he was attended by Dr. E. Ward, who found him suffering from severe contusions of the right knee and thigh and bruises on the arm, which was badly scraped. Mr. Heelas's many friends in Wokingham and Reading will be glad to know that he is progressing as favourably as can be expected, but he will be confined to his house for at least six weeks.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

The members of the Wokingham branch of the (C.E.T.S.) held its meeting in the Church House on Tuesday evening. Tea was provided followed by a business meeting, presided over by the Rev. Turner, rector of All Saints', who was supported by the Rev. G. Dangerfield and Mr. D. Dent. The Rev. D. Dangerfield was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. D. dent, hon. treasurer, and a representative committee was chosen. The balance sheet, which was presented, showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Songs were contributed during the evening.

### BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

The members of the Wokingham Baptist Christian Endeavour on Wednesday evening gave a tea and entertainment to a number of aged people, a kindness which was greatly appreciated.

### PALMER SCHOOL TREAT

The annual Christmas treat was enjoyed on Saturday by the scholars of the Palmer (Upper) Schools. Two fine Christmas trees were kindly given by Mr. T.M. Wescott, one for boys and one for girls. Mr. R. Herring and Mr. Foy gave boxes of oranges, while dolls were dressed by several ladies. A large number of the friends and supporters of the school were present, and ladies assisted in distributing the gifts. Hearty cheers were given to Captain Gregorie, the kind correspondent of the school; the Master, the teachers, and others. Buns and oranges were distributed amongst the children before leaving.

### THE CLUB—ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Club was held in the Club House on Friday evening, Mr. Howard Palmer, president, occupying the chair. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and adopted. The secretary presented the balance sheet and statement of accounts, which showed the Club to be in a satisfactory position. The president, treasurer, secretary, librarian and auditors were re-elected. Nine names were nominated for seven places on the committee, and election followed. Votes of thanks terminated the meeting.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Reading Observer

At the Diversity Club on Tuesday evening the Rev F.R. Sheehan gave a thoughtful paper on "The Modern Novel," which was followed by an interesting discussion. Mr. P. Sale presided.

### LECTURE

At the usual meeting of the Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Association on Wednesday evening, Mr. E.J. Taylor of Bracknell, gave an interesting lecture, entitled, "The romance of the electric Telegraph." There was a large attendance.

### GUN ACCIDENT

Charles Henry Simmonds, a little boy of three, living in King-street, Wokingham, was taken on Sunday to the Royal Berks Hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in

the leg. It appears that the lad was walking with his father who was carrying a loaded gun. Quite unexpectedly the gun went off. Favourable progress is being made.

#### THE FAIR

On Monday and Tuesday, the annual pleasure fair was held in a meadow off the London-road. The number of stalls, etc., seemed to be considerably above the average. The fair was extensively patronised, and the scholars of the elementary schools received a half-holiday on Tuesday afternoon. On Sunday an open-air service was held in the fair ground by the workers of All Saints' Parish. The Rev. E.W. Moberley gave an address, and the singing was led by the All Saints' Band.

#### 1909

*[No entries]*

#### 1910

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### DANIEL HEELAS

Daniel Heelas died on Sunday aged 80.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WESLEYAN ENTERTAINMENT

With the object of reducing a debt of £190 on the renovation and new organ (balance) fund an entertainment was given in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Wednesday evening. Mr. W.G. Jeffries presided, and there was a large attendance. The programme was arranged by Mr. F. Burland and the Chairman. Refreshments were provided, and the proceeds of a silver collection were devoted to the debt fund.

#### TOWN BAND DANCE

The Town Band held their annual dance on Wednesday evening in the Town Hall. The Band, conducted by Mr. F. Farr, played a good selection of dance music. Mr. A. Bird made an efficient secretary.

#### MAGPIES CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of this cricket club was held on Saturday evening, at the Bank room, Town Hall. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. S.A. Griffin was voted to the chair. The report presented by Mr. A.H. Jones showed a very successful season. A balance in hand was reported of £1 12s. 2d., and the report and balance-sheet were adopted. The Rev. B. Long was re-elected president, and Mr. A.H. Jones was re-elected hon. secretary. The Club again decided to enter its teams for the Reading and District Cricket League in Divisions I and II respectively. Practice nights were fixed for Tuesdays and Thursdays during the season. Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

#### WOKINGHAM CLUB

The annual meeting of this club was held in the Club House, Denmark-street, on Friday evening in last week, under the presidency of Mr. W. Howard Palmer. A large number of members were present, and the Secretary's accounts showed a balance in hand of about £25. The officers were re-elected, Mr. A.H. Jones taking Mr. Craig's place on the committee. The W. Howard Palmer Cup was presented in replica to Mr. A.H. Jones, who suitably acknowledged the gift. Mr. Cook was the recipient of a



silver-mounted pipe, tobacco, and pouch, for the interest he had taken in the billiard room. Hearty votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

#### SOCIAL MEETING

An enjoyable "social" was held in St. Paul's Parish Room on Wednesday, arranged by the following committee- Mrs. Targett, Mrs Laumann, Misses Walden, Howard and Goddard. The proceedings included a whist drive, the ladies first prize being won by Miss Webb (Hurst) and the gentlemen's first prize by Mr. R. Sergeant. Refreshments were provided and dancing followed till 2 a.m.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### DEATH OF MR. WALTER OF BEAR WOOD

With very sincere regret we have to announce that Berkshire has this week lost yet another of its well-known and representative men, who was also one of the largest land-owners. After but a few days' illness, Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter expired on the evening of Tuesday last at his stately residence, Bear Wood, near Wokingham. The tidings of his death has called forth a deep feeling of sorrow as well as sympathy with his widow and family; and a keen sense of loss is felt throughout the county, especially in his own neighbourhood. Less than three weeks ago Mr. Walter was taken ill with an attack of influenza but he apparently did not realise the gravity of the attack, and when feeling and looking far from well he was out shooting with friends. Whether he then took a chill, or thereby aggravated the attack, is not known; however from some cause pneumonia supervened, followed by complications, and notwithstanding the best of nursing and the most careful medical treatment his condition became very serious and he fell into a comatose state in which condition he remained for several days, until he passed peacefully away shortly after nine o'clock on Tuesday evening at the age of 64.

Though Mr. Walter did not take any very prominent part in county affairs, beyond those which generally fall to the lot of a country gentleman and an owner of a large estate, yet the Walter family have for so many years been honourably and prominently connected with Berkshire that it was only natural that a keen sense of sorrow should be felt at the tidings of his unexpected death.

Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter was a County Magistrate for Berkshire, also a Deputy lieutenant of the County. High Steward of the town of Wokingham and a member of the Berks County Council. He was also formerly Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel Commandant of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteer Battalion Royal Berks Regiment in which he served for several years. He was also a member of the Berkshire Territorial force Association from its commencement. In his younger days he took very great interest in the Volunteer Movement, and for many years regularly attended the Annual Camp of its battalion. The town of Wokingham is indebted to him for the splendid Drill Hall and Armoury, which he erected there when he commanded the Wokingham Company, with which his name will ever be associated. He also did all in his power to encourage a high standard of rifle shooting amongst his men by attending their practices and shooting with them.

Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter was the second and eldest surviving son of Mr. John Walter, of Bear Wood, for several years M.P. for Berkshire. He was born at Waterloo House, near Wokingham on September 12<sup>th</sup> 1846. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1870 and M.A. in 1875. He took a first class in Classical Moderations, but was only placed in the Third Class in the Final Classical School, partly because he had no great inclination for the studies and

subjects which gain distinction in that school and possibly also because he was devoted to cricket.

Mr. Walter played for Eton against Harrow in 1865. He also got his Blue for cricket at Oxford and in the 1869 match bowled affectively.

Mr. Walter married in 1872 Henrietta Maria eldest daughter of the Rev. T.A. Anson, of Langford Rectory, Derbyshire. His widow and four children—two sons and two daughters—survive him. He is succeeded by his elder son John, who was born in 1873, and married in 1903 Charlotte Hilda, daughter of Colonel C. E. Foster, of Buckley Hall.

The Walter family have always been closely connected with *The Times* newspaper, which was founded by the first John Walter in 1785 as the *Daily Universal Register* and renamed *The Times* at the beginning of 1788. Mr. Arthur Walter on the death of his father in 1894, became manager and chief proprietor of *The Times*. About two years ago a limited company was formed and at the time of his death Mr. Walter was Chairman of *The Times* Publishing Company (Limited).

As the second son it was understood that Arthur Walter would adopt a definite profession. But the idea was abandoned when his elder brother, John Balston Walter, was drowned in the lake at Bear Wood on Christmas-eve, 1870, while attempting to rescue one of his brothers and a cousin, who had fallen through the ice. By the untimely death of his brother, young Arthur Walter became, while he was still an undergraduate at Oxford, the destined successor of his father in the management and chief proprietorship of *The Times*—a position that had always been held by the head of the family.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March

#### THE LATE MR. WALTER OF BEAR WOOD

Muffled peals were rung on Sunday, as a token of regard and esteem for the late Mr. Walter (Arthur Fraser), from the towers of the Parish Church and of St. Paul's, Wokingham. The preacher at St. Paul's on Sunday morning was the Rev. C.A. Whittock, a former rector of Bear Wood, and now Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford. In the course of his sermon he made feeling reference to the lamented death of Mr. Walter and to the conscientious manner in which he carried out the various duties devolving upon him as the owner of a large estate and in the position of a very great responsibility. He said Mr. Walter combined with a singular independence of judgment a remarkable intensity of purpose; and yet in all his tastes he was a perfectly simple and true-hearted man. At the close of the service the organist played the "Dead March" in *Saul*, the congregation standing.

#### THE GARTH HUNT AT CUMBERLAND LODGE

H.R.H. Prince Christian entertained the members of the Garth Hunt at dinner at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Park, on Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Some of the gentlemen invited remained at Cumberland Lodge as the guests of the Prince for the night, and on the following (Wednesday) morning a hunt breakfast was given previous to the meet of the Garth Hunt. The *Daily Graphic* of Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, contained an excellent photo illustration of a group of members of the Hunt taken after the Hunt breakfast at Cumberland Lodge. The group included Prince Christian, Sir Robert Wilmot, General Leir Carleton, Captain Rickman, Mr. John Simonds, Mr. Howard Palmer, and Major Evan Martin.

#### MISSION TO SEAMEN

The Rev. G.F. Wilson Organizing Secretary to the Missions to Seamen, preached on Sunday morning at All Saints' Church, on behalf of the missions, and in the afternoon addressed the men's meeting.

#### CHURCH HISTORY LECTURE

A Church History Lecture was given at St. Paul's Parish Room, on Wednesday afternoon, by the Rev. O.S.E. Clarendon, on "The Life of S. Francis of Assisi."

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

A concert and lecture meeting were given in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, in connection with the Co-operative Society. The members of the Reading Co-operative Choir were responsible for the musical programme, and an address was given by Mr. J.T. Brownlie parliamentary Labour Candidate for Govan, Glasgow; the subject being "Co-operation and its Benefits." Mr. B. Russell was chairman.

#### WILLIAM BARNARD MOWER

Mr. William Barnard Mower who some 35 years ago was a well-known corn merchant, &c., in Rose Street, died last week at his residence 63, Peach-street, after a long illness. He was much respected, and formerly held a prominent position in public affairs. He was one of the first Town Councillors on the granting of the charter in 1885, and served continuously till 1903, when, owing to ill-health, he retired. He was Mayor in 1893-4. As Secretary of the Starr-Bowkett Societies of Wokingham and Bracknell, he was still more widely known. For many years in succession, he was chosen Rector's Warden of All Saints', which position he relinquished at Easter, 1909, on account of illness. He was twice married. He leaves a widow, a son (Mr. Frank Mower), and two daughters Mrs. J.H. Byard (Wokingham), and Mrs. Slade (Caversham), for whom general sympathy has been expressed. The funeral took place at All Saints' Church on Monday, the Rector (the Rev. B. Long) officiating. The Mayor (Alderman D.N. Heron), with members and officials of the Corporation, attended.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April

#### SIDNEY HALL

Mr. Sidney Hall, second son of H.E. Hall, Wokingham, an officer in the Royal Mail steamship, Corinthia, of the White Star line has been appointed sub-lieut. of the Royal Naval Reserve.

#### TOWN HALL TOILET

The town council surveyor submitted a plan for the installation of a public toilet in a municipal building.

Sat 23rd April

#### A VERY STRANGE AFFAIR

An extraordinary occurrence, resulting in serious injury to one man, a slight damage to another is reported from "The Rifle Volunteer," an inn about a mile from Wokingham. On Wednesday evening, a man named John Thomas Baker, employed at a travelling Show located at Hurst, entered the "Rifle Volunteer" with a companion, also engaged at the same Show, and called for drinks. The landlord was executing the order when he was startled by a loud explosion. Baker exclaimed "that was something

I had in my hand.” The landlord saw that Baker’s hand was injured, and it was found that one finger was blown away and the tips of the others, while the thumb and palm of the hand were badly torn. The injuries were caused by some explosive which Baker had held in his hand. Dr. Bokenham was summoned by the landlord, and the injured man was sent to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, while the police were also informed of the occurrence. Baker declined to make any explanation as to what caused the explosion, and his companion professed ignorance. There were several persons in the house at the time and a good deal of consternation was caused.

#### THUNDERSTORM

A very heavy thunderstorm passed over Wokingham and the district around on Saturday, between 12 and one o’clock. A peculiar darkness overspread the district-just previous to the storm, when an unusually severe hailstorm also swept over the district, accompanied by very vivid flashes of lightning and deafening peals of thunder. The peculiarity of the hail-storm was that the hail-stones were softer than those in ordinary winter hail-storms and more resembled pellets of frozen snow, many of which were almost as large as marbles. Had they been of the usual hardness much damage would have been done to glass houses. So intense was the storm that in a few minutes the ground was white with the hail-stones. In the district around some trees were struck and considerable alarm was caused. The storm lasted about an hour, and the afternoon was wet and stormy.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May

#### DEATH OF THE KING

The sad news of the King’s death cast a gloom over the whole borough and neighbourhood. Flags floated at half-mast over the Municipal Buildings on Saturday morning and throughout the week, and a short muffled peal was rung on the bells of All Saints’ Church on Saturday evening. On Sunday muffled peals were rung at both churches and sympathetic references were made in the sermons to the Nation’s loss.

The National Anthem was sung at both churches and the Dead March was played on the organ.

In reply to a telegram sent by the Mayor (Mr. D.N. Heron) the following reply was received:- “Buckingham Palace, The King sincerely thanks you and the inhabitants of the Borough of Wokingham for kind sympathy and loyal message.—Equerry.”

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May

#### ROBINS’ S NEST IN A WATER CAN

Recently a robin built her nest in a small water can hanging on a brick wall at the back of the “Three Brewers” public house in the Barkham-road. Here she laid six eggs and sat contentedly on the nest until they were hatched, notwithstanding that the landlord (Mr. Albert Surman) carried the can about the house to show customers. The six young birds appear very comfortable in their queer abode.

#### THE KING PROCLAIMED AT WOKINGHAM

Residents of the ancient and loyal Borough of Wokingham assembled in large numbers outside the Town Hall at noon on Thursday, to hear the proclamation of his Majesty King George V. A platform, covered with red baize, had been erected in the Market-place near the building, and as the Mayor, Ald. D.N. Heron (wearing his chain of office) with the members of the Corporation, emerged from the Town Hall, the Boys’ Brigade and the Cadet Corps drawn up outside gave a general salute. A general salute by the Boys’ Brigade followed, after which the Town Crier (J. Taylor) rang the

bell and shouted: "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Let all persons keep silence while his Majesty is proclaimed."

Before reading the Proclamation the Mayor said:

"The honour has fallen upon me as Mayor to publicly proclaim in this loyal Borough of Wokingham, in the Royal County of Berks, the accession to the Throne of this great Empire of his Majesty King George V., and while I do so with all loyalty to his person, I feel that none of us can obliterate from our minds the overwhelming sorrow that has so suddenly and prematurely come upon the people of this Realm by the untimely death of our late universally beloved King, his Majesty King Edward VIII., whose beneficent and too short reign has been the wonder and admiration of the civilised world."

The Mayor then read the Proclamation in a tone which everyone present could hear.

A Royal salute by the buglers followed, and the Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. Farr, played the National Anthem. At the request of the Mayor the school children present sang "God save the King."

The proceedings, which lasted only five minutes, were most impressive, all the men present standing with uncovered heads.

Sat 21st May

The Mayor issued a handbill requesting the shopkeepers to close on Friday on the occasion of the funeral of King Edward.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May

Mrs. Walter has left Bear Wood and is settled at 35, Courtfield gardens, SW. All communications for her to be addressed to Mrs. Arthur F. Walter.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter have left Bear Wood and have arrived at Lancaster-gate-terrace, W.

Sat 16th July

#### ALDERMAN CREAKER'S PORTRAIT

The Town Clerk read a letter from Mr. S.C. Goodchild of St. Leonard's-on-Sea in advice that Miss Ann Creaker has bequeathed to the council an oil painting of the late Mr. Thomas Creaker who was several times Alderman of Wokingham in the Corporation with a request that the portrait may be placed in the town hall. It was recommended that the bequest be accepted and that thanks of the council be conveyed to the relatives.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July

#### THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE

Congratulations are due to the Marquis of Downshire (in the peerage of Ireland), of Easthampstead Park, Wokingham, on the recent completion of his 39<sup>th</sup> year. Born on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1871, he is the sixth holder of the title, to which he succeeded when three years of age on the death of his father in 1874. The marquis is also Earl of Hillsborough in the peerage of Great Britain, and as such has a seat in the House of Lords. He is a deputy-lieutenant of co. Down, a captain in the Berks Yeomanry, and the Hereditary High Constable of Hillsborough Fort, co. Down. He married in 1907,

as his second wife, Evelyn Grace May, daughter of Mr. Edmund B. Foster, of Clewes Manor.

#### BUCKHURST GARDENS

Mrs Murdoch has kindly thrown open her gardens at Buckhurst on Wednesdays until September 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### JUMBLE SALE

A successful Jumble Sale was held in Church House on Wednesday afternoon, and realised upwards of £20, which will be divided between the 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Boys' Brigade and the Palmer School Cadet Corps.

#### BAPTIST TREAT

The summer treat to the children of the Milton-road Sunday School was given in the Holt meadow, by permission of the family of the late Mr. D. Heelas, on Wednesday. Tea and various amusements were supplied on the ground. The Town Band again played a selection in the meadow and led the scholars home. Slight showers somewhat marred the proceedings.

#### MILITARY

The 25<sup>th</sup> Co. A.S.C. arrived in the town on Tuesday afternoon from Hounslow, and were billeted there for the night, departing next morning for Bath.

#### HOSPITAL PARADE AT WOKINGHAM THE RED CROSS BAND

The annual parade of the Royal Berkshire Hospital organised by the Red Cross Band was held in Wokingham on Saturday. Assembling at the headquarters in Rose-street, of the Red Cross Band, a procession paraded the town during the evening. The bands parading included the Wokingham Red Cross Band (Mr. S. Butler conductor) the Ascot Band (Mr. Morton), the Windlesham Band (Mr. Cree), and the Pipers of the St. Giles Company, Reading; Church Lads Brigade (Sergt. Griffiths).

Two sections of the procession were formed, and the whole district was thoroughly canvassed. The result of the day's collection amounted to £21 2s. 11¼d., and of a number of outstanding £4 11s. 0½d. making altogether a total of £25 13s. 11¾. In aid of the Hospital Fund.

Sat 1st October

#### NEW CLUB PREMISES AT WOKINGHAM Opening ceremony

The new Wokingham Club was opened on Wednesday afternoon, some 200 guests assembling. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs. W. Howard Palmer, and Mr. and Mrs. D.F. De Vitre were on the platform, and little Miss Doria Allan presented to Mrs. Palmer a bouquet of pink carnations and lilies of the valley.

The Mayor in his remarks expressed the deep debt of gratitude that the town and that Club owed to Mr. Howard Palmer for his very generous action with regard to the promotion of the Club. The name of Palmer in Reading and adjoining towns was proverbial for its generosity and liberality. Reading was said to be absorbing Wokingham, but they were glad to see Wokingham absorbing a little of Reading in exchange. As a town and Club they were pleased to have Mr. Palmer to reside in the neighbourhood. He had not sought his own interest in any way in purchasing those

premises and in making those beautiful additions, but he had acted entirely with a view to benefit Wokingham. (Applause.) Mr. De Vitre had been a good friend to the Club and had acted as President. Mr. Palmer had accepted that position, and had shown very great attention and energy in assisting the Club in its removal from the old to the new premises. The Club thanked him for all his energy and work. (Cheers.)

Mr. De Vitre remarked that the whole Club congratulated itself on having the Mayor as one of its members. As to Mr. Palmer's kindness they were all agreed. In deference to a wish of some of its members, Mr. De Vitre gave an outline of the Club's history. The Club, he said, was not only indebted to Mr. Palmer, but also to Mrs. Palmer, for the most handsome billiard table she had given them (applause), which would not only prove an addition but a source of income to the Club. The decorations had been satisfactorily carried out, and the membership had increased from 90 to 200. Once more he thanked Mr. and Mrs. Palmer and expressed his own sincere wishes for the future prosperity of the Club.

There followed a speech by Mr. Howard Palmer which ended with him declaring that the Club was open to the members of the Wokingham Club.

Mr. William Palmer then presented Mrs. Howard Palmer with a handsome silver fruit dish, subscribed for by the members of the Club, and Mr. Palmer with a handsome set of pipes in a case.

Mr. Howard Palmer expressed his great surprise at the presentation, for which he heartily thanked the members. His wife and he would prize them as long as they lived.

A smoking concert presided over by Mr. H.E. Hall was held in the evening.

Sat Nov

New mayor Mylne; deputy mayor: Ald Heron; Chambers: Sergt. At Mace; Town Crier: T.C. Taylor; Hon. Constables: Butler, Boshier, Hawkins, Higgs.

## 1911

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March

### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING AND PARISH ROOM

We have the pleasure to announce that owing to the extreme kind and generous liberality of our Parish Churchwarden, Mr. T.E. Ellison, these buildings have been purchased and handed over to the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Paul's. Thus all further anxiety of making appeals to the parishioners has been saved. Henceforth they will be in the care of the Rector, Churchwardens and Trustees, dating from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1911. We shall look with confidence to the parishioners to enable us by their annual subscriptions to keep these excellent buildings in good repair and maintain their general state of efficiency in all things required in the best interests of the School. – "Wokingham Parish Magazine."

### THE BEAR WOOD ESTATE SALE

The particulars and plans of the 124 lots of Freehold Properties comprising the outlying portions of the Bear Wood Estate, are now being issued and can be obtained from the offices of the Auctioneers, Messrs Trollope 14, Mount-street, Grosvenor Square, and other places mentioned in the auction announcement on the 5<sup>th</sup> page of today's *Mercury*. The particulars of each day's sale are published in three separate (large folio) books, with plans attached; price 1/- each, or the complete set 2s. 6d. The dates of the sale have been fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>,

29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at the Drill Hall, Hall Wokingham, and the lots comprise properties in the parishes of Wokingham, Arborfield, Barkham, Newland, Finchampstead, Sandhurst, Winnersh, and Yateley extending in all to about 3,240 acres. As mentioned last week some of the lots have been withdrawn from the auction, having been dealt with privately; and Messrs Trollope are still open to offers for purchase by private treaty previous to the auction.

#### WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS

Sermons were preached on Sunday in aid of the Wesleyan Home Missions by Mr. J.W. Spargo in the morning and by the Rev. J.W. Clegg in the evening. A children's service was held in the afternoon. Collections were taken for the Connexional Home Mission Fund.

#### LAWN MOWERS

For lowest prices and best makes of the most reliable Mowers apply ATTRIDE BROS., The Duke's Ride, Wellington College Station, Berks.

#### CORPORATION OF WOKINGHAM (extract)

The Corporation of Wokingham having applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £445 for the provision of a public convenience on the south-western side of the Municipal Buildings, and sums amounting to £3,130 for works of street improvement, Mr. R.H. Bicknall M. Inst. C.E., an inspector of that authority, attended at the Municipal Offices on Wednesday to hold a public Inquiry into the subject-matter of the applications. There was no opposition, and the proceedings were quite formal. Those attending were the Mayor (Councillor H.C. Mylne, the Deputy-Mayor (Ald. D.N. Heron), Councillors: E.C. Hughes, T. Dowsett, and H. Hammond, the Town Clerk (Mr. James May), and the Borough Surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks).

The Town Clerk informed the inspector that the population of Wokingham at the last census was 3,551, and the present estimated population nearly 5,000. In 1909 the Medical Officer estimated that the parish immediately surrounding the Borough contained a population of 3,830. The assessable value of Wokingham was £20,688, and the balance on outstanding loan £1,464. There was no loan sanctioned but not raised. The area was 557 acres. The general district rate last half-year totalled 1s. 1½d., there was a special school rate which averaged 2¼d. and the last Borough rate for urban purposes was 1s. 8d.

At the present time there was only one public convenience in the Borough which was much complained of both as to its condition and position. Certain outbuildings adjoining the Municipal Buildings could be adapted to the purpose being now used as stores.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March

#### EMPIRE DAY

Wednesday saw flags flying at the Church of All Saints', the Municipal Buildings and private homes. Special lessons were given in the elementary schools while the National Anthem and patriotic songs were sung. A parade of all the lads' organisations was held as usual in the cricket field in the Wellington-road.

#### OPENING OF THE NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The new R.C. Church at Shute End, Wokingham, was opened with the customary ceremony on Sunday, having been privately "blessed" the previous day. At 11.45 on



Sunday morning High Mass was celebrated by the resident priest, Father J. Doran, Father Galton, S.J., being deacon and Father Joseph, sub-deacon. Mr. W.J. Cusack was thurifer and there were two acolytes. The choir was composed of monks for Farnborough with one of the order at the American organ. There was a large congregation including sisters from the Convent, the school children, and visitors from other Churches. Father Galton preached in the morning and Father J. Doran in the evening, the latter giving a short history of the mission in Wokingham.

#### WESLEYAN CHAPEL

Sunday was the Anniversary of the chapel. Sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Mr. Percy W. Pocock. A Meeting was held on Wednesday evening over which Mr. Dunnett, of Hartley Whitney, presided. The speaker was the Rev. T. Caddy, of the same place. Mrs Cusden, of Ascot, was the soloist. Mr. Franklin, the Steward, read the report which was very satisfactory.

#### ACCIDENT

On Monday a horse attached to a laundry van was frightened by a traction engine and bolted. The van damaged the two large lamps of Messrs. Nelson's shop in Peach Street.

#### CORONATION FESTIVITIES OFFICIAL DETAILS

The Carnival Committee are in want of more funds for additional prizes, which will include the best tableaux representing some episode in local history or the best group of Dickens' characters.

The Side-shows Committee have arranged to have bursting the bladder, penalty goal-kicking, striking the ham, bowling for a pig, hoopla, cocoanut shies, bran tubs. It has been arranged for the school children to each have one free dip in the bran tubs. Mr. T.E. Ellison has generously offered to bear the expense of this, as regards St. Paul's and the Palmer Schools, and some members of the Wokingham Club are paying the extra cost so as to include the Council, St. Sebastian's, and Convent school children. In addition the committee are giving all the school children a free ticket for all save two of the side shows. Helpers are asked for in order to carry out this programme.

Three hundred more Coronation plates are wanted-a matter of £8 only-in order that the public who do not come under the old age claim may participate in the feast. It is hoped that this amount will be contributed to the funds within a few hours of the issue of this appeal.

#### ROASTING THE OX

The Fire Brigade, assisted by a large committee, are busy working out details for successfully carrying out the roasting and distribution of the ox, which is to be given by Lord Downshire. The Mayor has lent the banqueting table, but the loan of other tables and trestles is asked. Various friends have promised donations, etc., in kind.

"My alter ego," as the chicken said when it saw Mackintosh's Egg and Milk Toffee

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> June

CORONATION FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM  
ROASTING AN OX IN THE MARKET PLACE

Very full and elaborate preparation had been made at Wokingham for the loyal and enthusiastic celebration of Coronation Day, and with the principal traders closing their shops on Thursday and Friday the inhabitants generally gave themselves up to merry-making. The proceedings in connection with the festivities commenced at 7.30 a.m. and continued without intermission until 12 p.m. The weather was showery, but nevertheless large crowds assembled at the various functions. The arrangements which proved most successful, were made and carried out under the direction of various committees. Mr. Arthur T. Heelas was the principal organising hon. secretary doing the lion's share of the work.

The town was lavishly decorated for the event and several of the houses and shops of the principal residents and tradesmen were most effective. The Decoration Committee, in order to induce the inhabitants to decorate their houses and thereby add to the general gaiety, offered special prizes for the best decorated and illuminated house or premises and for the best decorated and luminous cottage.

Flags and streamers and 60 fir trees placed in tubs, draped with the Coronation colours-red, white and blue-formed the scheme of decoration arranged by the Committee for the Market-place. In the hands of members of the Fire Brigade was placed the control of the decorations of the Fire Station and the concert stage erected near. Mr. A.W. Poppy provided the fir trees.

At 7.30 the morning was heralded by merry peals from the bells of All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches, and at 10.15 there were special services at both churches, the Rectors (the Rev. Bertram Long and the Rev. H.M. Walter) respectively officiating. The Mayor (Mr. H.C. Mylne) with members of the Corporation and the various Corporation Committees attended All Saints' Church. The service, according to the form issued by the Archbishop corresponded as closely as possible, but in a shortened form, to that used in Westminster Abbey, and included a shortened Litany, the recital of the solemnities of the Coronation, the Common Service and the "Te Deum," the whole lasting about an hour and a quarter. The collection taken at All Saints' Church will be given to the King Edward Memorial Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

At 10.30 to 12.30 p.m. selections of music were played by the Wokingham Town Band, under Mr. W. Farr, in the Market-place.

#### THE ROASTING OF THE OX

The Coronation festivities were started at 10.30 o'clock on the eve of the Coronation Day by Miss Mylne, daughter of the Mayor, in the absence of the Marquis of Downshire, of Easthampstead Park, lighting the specially-prepared in the Market-place to roast the large ox, weighing 90 stone, which had been given by the Marquis of Downshire. The ox, on the spit, preceded by the Town Band arrived about eight o'clock via Easthampstead-road, and was paraded through the town before it was put down to the fire. The roasting was continued throughout the night under the superintendence of the Fire Brigade and a strong committee of experienced helpers. On such a great and important occasion of rejoicing as the Coronation of a Monarch the roasting of an ox whole appeals forcibly to the British ideas of celebrating the event, as in the olden time

#### DINNER TO AGED PEOPLE

The carving of the ox commenced about 11 o'clock on Thursday, and the dinner to the old people was served in the Large Town Hall half an hour later. At one p.m. dinner to a second party was served, making a total of between 600 and 700 people fed off the huge ox. Each of the diners received a souvenir Coronation plate, whilst owing to the liberality of the following brewers, each was supplied with a glass of beer of aeriated water, from Messrs. Brakspeare (Henley), J. Headington

(Wokingham), H.G. Powell (Wokingham), and Wethered and Sons (Marlow) through Mr. Boyton.

#### LOYAL DEMONSTRATION

At noon there was a general assembly of the Mayor and Corporation, the Berks Imperial Yeomanry, Boys' Brigade, Cadet Corps, and various public bodies in the Market-place. The Union Jack was unfurled from the east flagstaff of the Town Hall, while the Drum and Fife and the Bugle Bands of the Boys' Brigade and the Cadet Corps played. Accompanied by the Town Band all then joined in singing the *National Anthem*.

The Mayor subsequently entertained the members of the Corporation, officials and committees in the Town Hall to light refreshments. At the close the Mayor proposed the health of the King and Queen, which was enthusiastically honoured, and Ald. D.N. Heron proposed the health of the Mayor.

#### GALA FETE AND SPORTS

At 2.30 the children from the schools in the Borough assembled in the Market-place, where they sang the National Anthem and then went in procession to a large field in the Easthampstead-road, which was lent by Mr. W. Howard Palmer, and here was a gala fete on a large scale, under the direction of a committee and stewards.

During the afternoon a programme of sports for the children was arranged on a reserved track, whilst morris dances were carried out by a number of children from the Palmer School, and fancy marching and Coronation quadrilles by children from St. Paul's School. Tea was provided for 1,200 children, the catering being undertaken by Mr. G. A. Pigg. Coronation medals generally provided by the Mayor (Mr. H.C. Mylne) were presented to the children.

In the same field was arranged an excellent programme of Old English sports and a gymkhana consisting of cycling events, comic sports, animal races, Scouts' Marathon, greasy pole, and various competitions, including military sports by the Berks Imperial Yeomanry, Victoria Cross race, Balaclava [illegible] wrestling on horseback, section jumping etc.

Owing to the frequent showers of rain the other events on the programme could not be decided, and they will be carried out later.

The prizes were distributed to the successful competitors by the Mayoress (Mrs. Mylne.)

During the afternoon the Wokingham Town Band played an enjoyable programme of music, and refreshments were served by Mr. W. Chambers, of the Market-place. Stage performances were given at intervals during the afternoon and evening by the London Pierrot Team. There were a number of side shows.

At 5 p.m. a display was given by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, the items being of an amusing and exciting nature. Later in the evening there was dancing in a reserved enclosure, music being supplied by Mr. C Ayres Wokingham Orchestra. The day's proceedings closed with a most successful carnival and procession of illuminated and decorated cars, cycles, etc. for which prizes were offered. The list must be given next week.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Hilda Heelas, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tyndale Heelas, of Weston House, Wokingham, married George Powell of Oxford

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Aug

The Marquis of Downshire has accepted the office of High Steward of the Borough of Wokingham in succession to the late Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter of Bear Wood.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TERRITORIALS AT THE RANGE

A shooting match, the H (Wokingham) co. 4<sup>th</sup> Batt. Royal Berks. Regt. V, the Camberley Rifle Club, was shot off on Wednesday at Wokingham. Lce. Sergt. A.C. Hughes was the top scorer with 98, and the Wokingham Co. won by 22 points. Scores: Wokingham H Co., 672; Camberley R.C. 650.

#### FIRE AT A FARM

An outbreak of fire at Britton's Farm, opposite "The White Horse" Easthampstead-road, on Sunday night about ten o'clock, was responsible for some serious damage, a barn, two calves, some poultry, farm implements and about 20 sacks of wheat were destroyed. An engine had been at work on the Saturday threshing wheat, and it is possible a spark may have caused the damage. Mr. Darvill is the tenant under the Marquis of Downshire, and it is understood he is insured. The Wokingham Fire Brigade on being called, made a quick turn-out, and by their efforts succeeded in saving the dwelling house.

### 1912

Sat 3rd Feb

An engagement is announced between Captain Edward Hills Nicholson, Royal Fusiliers, eldest son of the late Alfred James Nicholson of Wokingham and Ethel Frances Henry, daughter of the late Cecil Henry, of Drumlamph, County Derry. "Morning Post."

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

It was recommended that a clock be obtained and fixed in the large town hall and that the Borough Surveyor prepare a report on some improved means of ventilation by the windows of the hall.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March

#### THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

At All Saints' Church on Sunday morning and at St. Paul's Church on Sunday evening, special sermons were preached and collections taken on behalf of the National Society.

#### GARTH HUNT POINT-TO-POINT

This popular fixture is again announced to be held at Lordlands Farm, Hawthorn Hill on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. E.M. Sturges, of Barkham Square, Wokingham, to whom entries close on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. Tea and light refreshments will be provided for all farmers within the limits of the Hunt.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Under the auspices of this Union a meeting was held on Monday, at the Studio, Great Mead, Wokingham, kindly lent by Mr. F. Garry, who took the chair. The Chairman expressed himself as very pleased to welcome all present to the consideration of the great question of the Enfranchisement of Women. He himself was as yet only a student of the subject. He put before his hearers the two points- of the wild, lawless conduct of the members of the Women's Social and Political Union, and of the earnest and devoted work of the far larger number of peaceful law-abiding Suffragists.

A resolution condemning the recent outrages of militant Suffragists was proposed by Mrs. Robie Uniacke, President of the East Berks Societies, and seconded by Mrs. Keeble, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union, then proposed a resolution calling upon Members of Parliament who support the principle of the Enfranchisement of Women to vote for the reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, on the ground that the patient and constitutional work of a vast number of earnest women and men should not suffer through the rash action of a small section of women.

All the speakers condemned physical violence as a means of political propaganda and emphasised the point that the women who were employing violent methods formed only one-tenth of the women organised into societies asking for the vote, and an infinitesimal proportion of those who would be enfranchised by the Household Suffrage Bill. They further pointed out that the justice and expediency of a cause cannot be affected by the unwisdom of some of its advocates, and instanced the destructive tactics of the South Wales miners and the Liverpool strike rioters, which had never elicited the suggestion of anyone that all men, or any class of men, should be denied a vote.

This second resolution was carried with three dissentients.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

The final payment to the contractors of £90 for work on public conveniences.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July

#### NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADES' UNION GREAT COMPETITIONS AT WOKINGHAM

On Wednesday, when the weather fortunately proved quite propitious, although the heat was somewhat oppressive, the general competition of the South Midland District of the National Fire Brigades Union, and general sports in connection therewith, were held in a spacious field off the Easthampstead-road, Wokingham (lent by Mr. Howard Palmer), and the gathering was most successful. The National Union is divided into two districts, there being 80 brigaded affiliated to the South Midland District, and of these 46 brigades actually competed, the number of entries being the record one of 178, and the meeting the most successful yet held. All the profits, It was arranged, should be divided between the Firemen's Widows and Orphans' Fund and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The Local Committee of whom a list is given below, threw themselves into the matter with great enthusiasm, the moving spirit being the Marquis of Downshire, who is the Captain of the Wokingham Fire Brigade, and they were ably backed by the honorary secretaries, and also by the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, who presented a ten-guinea prize to be won outright. Speaking generally the arrangements were excellent, and the provision made for the comfort of the

spectators appeared to be appreciated by the 5,000 to 6,000 persons who made their way to the ground to witness a demonstration new to the neighbourhood.

Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein is the President of the Executive Committee of the South Midland District, of which the Marquis of Downshire, Lord Amptill, and Mr. J.F. Mason, M.P., are Vice-Presidents, the Chairman Chief Officer Lewis Evans, and Supt. Stanley W. Thorpe, St. Albans, the hon. secretary.

Sat 3rd Aug

#### TOWN COUNCIL

At the quarterly meeting of the Wokingham Town Council held on Thursday evening, a letter was read from Ald. T.M. Wescott, the senior member of the Council and the first Mayor of the borough, resigning his seat owing to ill-health. The resignation was received with deep regret and it was decided to confer the honorary freedom of the borough on Mr. Wescott. A report with reference to the extension of the borough boundaries was adopted. A full report is unavoidably held over.

#### FOOTBALL

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Wednesday F.C. was held at the Victoria studio on Tuesday evening. Mr. A. Woolliams presided, and there was a representative gathering. After discussion, it was agreed to play on Langborough Recreation ground. The Rev. P.W. Saules was re-elected president, Mr. R. Clarke secretary, Mr. J. Ledaham captain, Mr. A. Woolliams sub-captain, treasurer Mr. G.A. Brant.

#### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOLS

On Monday afternoon, Mr. T.E. Ellison distributed the medals, bars and clasps provided by the County Council for regularity of attendance of children in elementary schools, and also awarded prizes provided by the same authority, and which are given for regular and punctual attendance, cleanliness, attention to lessons and general good behaviour.

#### TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The annual meeting was held in the Bank Room at the Town Hall on Friday evening. In the absence of the Rev. B. Long, Mr. A.C. Hughes was voted to the chair. The balance sheet showed a credit balance of over £7. The report dealing with the season's work was presented by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. H. Jones), the following being mentioned) and thanked for their services:- Messrs. H. Chipp and Hurdwell (linesmen), R.H. Challis (gateman), the hon. members, Mr. J. May (hon. treasurer and auditor). The balance sheet and report was adopted on the proposition of Mr. E.H. Thatcher, seconded by Mr. H. Berry. The officers were then re-elected, viz.: President: Rev. B. Long; hon. treasurer and auditor, Mr. J. May; hon. secretary, Mr. A.H. Jones; captain 1<sup>st</sup> XL, Mr. J. Houlton; sub-captain, Mr. E.R. Thatcher; captain 2<sup>nd</sup> XL, Mr. W.W. Stewart; sub-captain, Mr. M. Hewitt. The hon. secretary reported he had entered the Club for both divisions of the Ascot and District League, Camberley Hospital Cup, Berks and Bucks Junior Cup and Reading Town Cup Senior and Junior. A discussion followed as to the Club entering the Temperance League and the Camberley Hospital Cup, and it was decided that the entrance to various cup ties and leagues be decided in April, where the committee will report to the general meeting of the Club.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### FIRE BRIGADE

The Earl of Hillsborough who has taken a keen interest in the Wokingham Fire Brigade has been effected a fireman. He is the eldest son of the Marquis of Downshire and was born in 1894.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN HALL

Mr. E.O. Hughes was elected Alderman in place of Mr. T.M. Wescott who resigned because of ill health.

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN CLERK SUMMONED FOR INDECENT ASSAULT

A painful sensation was caused to Wokingham this week when it became known that Mr. James May, the Town Clerk, would be summoned for an indecent assault upon Mary Elizabeth Griffin, a domestic servant, of 23 Wescott-road, Wokingham.

The case was heard yesterday (Friday) before Mr. G.A. Watson and Mr. E.D. Mansfield.

The Hon. R. Coventry, instructed by Messrs. Brain and Brain of Reading, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Cecil Walsh, instructed by Mr. E.T. Hatt, of Reading, was briefed for the defendant.

Mr. Coventry said there were two charges of indecent assault upon which the prosecution proposed to rely. In regard to the charge of rape, that was entirely owing to a misunderstanding. The view of the prosecution was that the girl in her innocence had misled them in believing something more had taken place than was actually the case.

Miss Elizabeth Griffin, aged 19, said she had been in Mr. May's service for two years and ten months. He employed a housekeeper, Mrs. Lunn. On Aug 18, a Sunday, it was witness's duty to wait upon Mr. May at supper, and she waited upon him about 9.45 p.m. After supper Mr. May said "Mary Come here, I want you a minute." She did not know what he wanted and went to him. He took hold of her hand, sat her on his knee and behaved indecently. She struggled and asked him to let her go, and he replied, "Wait a minute." When she got away he said "Goodnight." He kissed her. She was not willing that he should act like that. Mrs Lunn had gone to bed, complaining of being unwell. Witness went to her bedroom and locked the door. The next morning Mrs. Lunn called at her room and found the door locked. She let her in and made a complaint. On the following Sunday she laid the supper for Mr. May. Mrs Lunn came into the dining room and said, "No doubt you will be surprised for me to come in Mr. May. I have come to say what has happened to Mary this last week-not only today but last Sunday as well, you have been very rude to her, and I have told her to tell her mother. I have heard a good deal about you, but I have always taken your part, but now I will screen you in no way at all. A man in your position should be downright ashamed of himself. It is quite time that Mary and I both made a change. I thought I could not rest until I had it out with you tonight."

Mr. May replied, "I don't think I have done Mary any harm." Witness complained to her mother on Sunday, August 25, and on the following day her father took her away.

(much more)

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

Miss Ellen J. Heron, daughter of Alderman Heron, married Mr. A.W. Gallaway of Hastings.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

As Mr. T.M. Wescott was being driven into the Market-place on Tuesday his horse fell and expired.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The children of the Palmer Schools were presented with their County Council prizes on Thursday afternoon by the Mayor and Mrs. W.T. Martin, who, afterwards, attended the gathering of the children of St. Paul's Sunday School in the Parish Room and distributed book prizes to the deserving scholars. Tea was prepared for the children, and Mr. T.E. Ellison provided a lantern entertainment. The scholars of St. Paul's Day Schools had their annual winter treat yesterday (Friday). Presents of toys, buns, and oranges were given, and a pleasant time was spent. Miss Dodge (the headmistress of the infants' department) was the recipient of handsome presents from the managers, teachers, and the children on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage.

#### STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. W.C. MAY

Mr. William C. May, recently appointed Deputy Town Clerk of Wokingham, disappeared in a mysterious way on Tuesday. He left his office unfastened, and, his parents, who are also much respected, have been unable to trace his whereabouts, although they have received postcards from various places, including one from Brighton yesterday (Friday). It is supposed that a lapse of memory, following worry and overwork, may be the cause of his disappearance. The police have circulated a description of the missing man.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### MR WILLIAM MAY

Mr. William C. May, acting town clerk, was on Monday night restored to his home and friends, and is now being cared for by his parents. He was seen in the neighbourhood of London by a friend, who telegraphed the address to Mr. May, senr. with the result that he was brought home by the midnight train. Mr. William May, who is suffering from the effects of overwork and nervous worry, is still much depressed.

#### SAD ACCIDENT TO AN OLD MAN

As an elderly "man on the road" was passing along Broad-street about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, he met with somewhat serious injury, through the collapse of the hoarding in front of the site of the new Picture Theatre. The old buildings have been razed to the ground, and the hoarding was left, the poles being set in tubs, in readiness for the erection of the new structure. This was caught by a gust of wind and blown down bodily, knocking the man into the gutter, and severely hurting him. The poor old man who gave his name as William Hammond was quickly extricated by a number of persons who were near at the time, and was taken on the police ambulance to the surgery of Drs. Ward and Bokenham, where it was found that he had sustained a fractured femur and some slight injuries to the head.



Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE TOWN CLERKSHIP

A meeting of Wokingham Town Council was held on Thursday when the General Purposes Committee recommended that Mr. H.E. Clifton, solicitor, of Lladripod?, Wales be appointed Town Clerk and Borough Accountant at a salary of £100 for the first year rising to £200. An office to be provided for his use for Borough business only, and that he undertake that a competent person to be left in charge during his absence for private business.

Sat 1st March

The Wokingham Picture Palace will be formally opened on Tuesday afternoon next and invitations have been sent to the leading residents of the district. A charge will be made for admissions and a share of the proceeds will be given to the Crowthorne & District Nursing Association. The Directors will provide light refreshments. The first public performance will take place the same evening.

Sat 15th March

#### ELECTRIC THEATRE (WOKINGHAM PICTURE PALACE)

The opening of this place of amusement took place on Monday afternoon. The Mayor (Councillor W. T. Martin) opened the proceedings and switched on the first film. Mr. Vince, a director, thanked the Mayor for his kindness. A selection of films was then exhibited. The theatre was filled at the evening performance

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> May

Miss Anne Heelas died, age 82, at the Terrace. Daughter of the late John Heelas of the Holt.

### 1914

Sat 17th Jan

Fire Brigade Wedding-At St. Paul's Church on Monday, Mr Weston B Martin, son of Mr & Mrs H Martin of Denmark Street was wedded to Miss Margaret Emily Smallbone of St. Leonard's, Wokingham, only daughter of Mr S Smallbone. The bride was attended by Master Joey Dearlove who acted as page dressed in fireman's uniform.

The bridegroom was driven to the church in a fire engine accompanied by the brigade including the Marquis of Downshire who acted as driver and Lord Hillsborough. Mr Martin has been a member of the brigade for 23 years and that body presented him with a clock. A reception was afterwards held at Fernleigh, home of the bridegroom's brother.

Sat 14th Feb

Alderman Heron's wife died Thursday last week at 22 Market Place.

Sat 9th May

#### MOTOR FIRE ENGINE FOR WOKINGHAM LADY DOWNSHIRE OPENS BAZAAR

The Marchioness of Downshire, in the presence of a large company of residents of the town and district on Wednesday afternoon formally opened a grand bazaar in the Drill Hall, Wokingham in aid of a new motor fire engine, which it is proposed to purchase for the borough. The Wokingham Fire Brigade, which has been in existence nearly 40 years, has done valuable and efficient work in the past with their horse manual but it was felt that it should become more up to date and secure a motor fire engine, which will enable the brigade to cope more thoroughly with any outbreak which may occur in the town and ever increasing populous district of Wokingham Without.

The Marquis of Downshire, who is High Steward of the Borough and also Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, started a subscription list with £100, and of the £725 required upwards of £644 had been raised by private subscription before Wednesday's final effort to secure another £100.

So excellent was the response to the appeal made by a committee of the Brigade, that a Dennis patent turbine motor fire engine was ordered from the makers at Guildford, and this will soon be delivered. The engine is from 40 to 45 horsepower, has a current of from 200 to 250, with 1,200 feet of hose and a 60 feet jet, and is capable of travelling 30 miles an hour. As stated the price is £725.

On Wednesday a new sister engine belonging to the Farnborough Fire Brigade was brought over by Chief Officer Collins, and it was on view in the Drill Hall yard. Previous to the opening of the bazaar members of the Wokingham Brigade were taken round the town on it in charge of the Captain (Lord Downshire).

The following are the members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade all of whom were present in their brass helmets and smart uniforms:—

Chief Officer, The Marquis of Downshire; Deputy Chief Officer, F. Caiger; Lieutenant, A. Goswell; hon. Surgeon, Dr. T.B. Bokenham; engineers, F.G. Martin, W.B. Martin, and F. Knight; firemen, W.R. Brant, F. Dearlove, G.A. Brown, H.J. Painter, R. Herring, E. Hawkins, and the Earl of Hillsborough; hon. Secretary, Fireman Harold Watts, 7 Broad Street, Wokingham.

The opening ceremony took place at two o'clock, and among those present were: The Marquis and Marchioness of Downshire, the hon. Mrs and Miss Peel, Major W.K. Bunting (chief officer of the Camberley Fire Brigade), Lieut. Colonel Fox (chief officer of London Salvage Corps), Miss Gregorie, Mr. P. Sale, C.C., the Rev. H.M. Walter, the Rev. J. Stratton, Mr. E. Watts, Fireman Harold Watts (hon. secretary), Chief Officer Collins (Farnborough Fire Brigade), Dr. T.B. Bokenham, Mr. A.J.S. Kennett (Reading, etc).

The members of the Wokingham and Farnborough Fire Brigades were lined up on each side of the gaily-decorated platform.

Fireman Harold Watts announced apologies, with wishes of success to the bazaar, from the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Mr. And Mrs. H. Mylne), Lord Londesborough (President of the National Fire Brigades Union), Mr. Sydney A. Hankey, Mr. And Mrs. Howard Palmer, Lady Bective, Mr. John Walter, Mr. S. B. Joel, Captain Godsal, Colonel Seabrook (Chairman of the Council of the National Fire Brigades Union), Chief Officer Halls (Windsor Fire Brigade), Mr. And Mrs. E.M. Sturges, and the Deputy-Mayoress (Mrs. W.T. Martin). Mr. Watts announced that £644 of the £725 required had been subscribed, and they were hoping that as a result of that bazaar the remaining sum of £100 or more would be realised. (Applause.)

The Marquis of Downshire said he was there in two capacities—as High Steward of the Borough of Wokingham and as Captain of the Fire Brigade,—and he was very proud to hold both those positions, and he hoped he would always be able to serve the true interests of the inhabitants. (Applause.) He wished to most cordially thank all the

organisers, including the stallholders and helpers, and all those who had subscribed to the stalls for that bazaar: the residents of Wokingham, Wokingham Without, and those in the surrounding villages for their subscriptions and help to the motor fire engine fund; to those in charge of the refreshment stall, particularly Miss Cooper and Miss Rose; to Mr. Medcalf and his committee for organising the side shows; to Mr. Maidment and the teachers of the Palmer Schools for arranging the morris dances; to Mrs. H.B. Hall and party and Mr. F Ayers and party for arranging the concerts; to Mrs. S. Butler (conductor) and the members of the Wokingham Red Cross Prize Band; and to all those who had assisted in any way. He could only hope that they would be able to get sufficient money to pay for their new motor fire engine, and then the members of the Brigade would endeavour to make themselves proficient with the gift that had been kindly provided. He wished to thank Colonel Fox for kindly volunteering to come there that day in his smart Brigade uniform. He should also like to thank the Captain of the Farnborough Fire Brigade for kindly coming over with his men and showing the Wokingham people the kind of engine the local Brigade shortly hoped to have. (Applause). He took that opportunity on behalf of the Brigade, of thanking for all the great kindness and help they had rendered them. (Applause.)

Mr. P. Sale said that as County Councillor for that borough, and also as a member of the Wokingham Town Council, it gave him great pleasure to be present that afternoon. He had known the Brigade since its formation, now nearly 40 years ago and he was very pleased to see what a great step forward it had made. (Applause.) When they came to think of it, it was rather out of date when they received a call from some five miles or so in the country to have to hunt about in order to find horses. He was sure they were all pleased to know that a good portion of the sum had already been provided, which would enable the motor engine to be purchased, and so enable the Brigade to become more and more efficient when called to a fire. The men certainly ought to be efficient under such an excellent Chief Officer, and he was sure the town had reason to be proud of the Brigade. (Applause).

He remembered that when the Brigade was first formed under their old friend, Mr. John Briginshaw, who he was glad to know was still alive, they went to Chiswick and created surprise by carrying off the chief honours at the competition there. The inhabitants of Wokingham most cordially sympathised with the Brigade in the efforts they were making to secure the new motor engine, and he should like to acknowledge the debt which the townspeople owed to the members who gave up their business and pleasure at the call of duty. (Applause.). They set them all an excellent example, and he wished the Brigade every success. (Applause.)

Deputy Chief Officer F. Caiger and Lieutenant A. Goswell, on behalf of the members of the Brigade, tendered their grateful thanks to Lord Downshire for all the kindness he had shown them in the past, and for the great assistance he had rendered in raising a fund for their new motor engine. The latter remarked that Lord Downshire's household had contributed £160 to the fund. They knew that when their Captain took the matter up it was bound to be a success. (Applause.)

Little Miss and Master Bokenham having presented to the Marchioness of Downshire a choice bouquet of orchids, supplied by Messrs. E.H. Davidson and Co., of Twyford.

The Marchioness said she felt it a great honour to have been asked to open that bazaar. She hoped it would be a great success, because she knew how earnestly and thoroughly they had all worked to try and make it so, and what a splendid cause it was for. She had great pleasure in declaring the bazaar open. (Applause.)

Colonel Fox, Chief Officer of the London Salvage Corps, in thanking Lady Downshire for opening the bazaar, said he thought Wokingham was a very lucky town. They possessed a smart Brigade and were very fortunate to have such charming ladies, headed by the Marchioness of Downshire, to assist at a bazaar of that kind on behalf of funds for a new motor engine. Of course it was for the good of the townspeople generally to have as efficient Brigade, and they were extremely fortunate in having as the Chief Officer the Marquis of Downshire, who not only knew his work, but did it well. (Applause.)

He was recognised in the National Fire Brigade Union as an officer who took a very great interest in the work. (Hear, hear.) Colonel Fox also paid a tribute to the efficiency of the Brigade and thanked Fireman Harold Watts (the hon. Secretary) for all he had done.

The sale then commenced. Concerts took place during the afternoon and evening and the total takings of the whole event amounted to £124 1s 3½d.

Sat 6th June

Mr W Chambers, Sergeant-at-Mace died in Australia. (Sydney Daily Telegraph 28<sup>th</sup> April) Taralga. William Chambers who arrived recently from England died suddenly at the Goodbron Hospital today. The late Mr W Chambers was well-known as a caterer at Wokingham and Wellington College. He served in the Volunteers and retired with the rank of sergeant. He was, for about 20 years a Sergeant at Mace and Sidesman at St. Paul's Church. He had advised his friends of his intention of returning home.

Sat. 22nd Aug

#### APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

On Thursday night a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, when Colonel Colebrooke Carter explained the object of Lord Kitchener's scheme. The Mayor of Wokingham was in the chair, supported by Lord Haversham, Colonel Jones, Major Adam, Mr. E.M. Sturges, and Mr. S.A. Hankey.

The Mayor said the meeting was to enable Colonel Carter To give some information as to the calling up of the extra men.

Colonel Carter said they were engaged in a great conflict and Lord Kitchener had asked for more men. It was the duty of every man and woman to do all that was possible to enable him to have a force at his disposal. It was of vital importance to get a second Army together, drilled and ready to fight. It was arranged that a recruiting committee should be formed to assist the Recruiting Officer. In Wokingham a sub-committee would be focussed. It was proposed to have a house-to-house call, and so find out all those men who were eligible for service. All who were physically fit were eligible. Men must be between the ages of 19 and 30. Separation allowance would be made for wives. Lord Kitchener had made up his mind to get a second army together strong to protect us in all difficulties. It was a way of life and death, and under these circumstances the nation could not refuse to respond to this appeal. (Applause.)

Lord Haversham said that, thanks to our splendid Navy, the expeditionary force had been successfully landed to assist our allies. The Territorials and Yeomanry had been of great assistance to our Regular troops. The Territorial ranks were full, so those who wished to join Kitchener's force must be quick about it. Mr. de Vitre had come forward to take names of recruits at the Drill Hall,

Admiral Eustace referred to Oliver Cromwell's well-trained body of men, and said Lord Kitchener wanted to get a body of men together like that. It was the duty of all to come forward.

Colonel Jones said they were fighting an aristocratic clique of bullies who bullied their men.

The present was a just war.

Councillor Sale, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said they lived in a land of liberty. They were undertaking a gigantic task in the interest of peace. The Germans were not a liberty people. They were excellent people, and those he had met did not want to be at war with England but they were not at liberty. The Government were acting in defence of liberty. He regarded the call to arms as a most sacred call, and all had, he considered, a certain obligation to obey. He hoped the County of Berkshire would answer the call.

### THE WOKINGHAM PATRIOTIC FUND

In view of the present war crisis, a short account of this local fund should prove interesting to many, especially to those who subscribed. The latter have a right to know how the three trustees have carried out their trust during the past thirteen years, and as I am the only trustee left in the town it is obviously my duty to enlighten both subscribers and the public on the subject.

The fund was started in October, 1899, by the late Captain Arthur Hill M.P., and a Committee consisting of the Mayor (Alderman W. White), Rev. R. de Muller Nixon, Messrs. G.A. Belcher, E. Garrard, E. Ifould, F. Martin, G.T. Phillips, H.G. Powell, with Messrs A.T. Heelas and F.P. Hatt as Hon. Secretaries.

The first step taken was to start a fund to assist local widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the Transvaal War. Feeling in the town at the time was strongly against so much money being collected and sent away to the large national funds, so this local fund was started to give immediate assistance to those living amongst us who did not appear to be satisfactorily covered by the other funds. The idea proved a popular one, especially among the poorer classes, as was proved by the generous way in which they supported it through the medium of collection boxes, etc. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1899, a grand patriotic concert was given in the Drill Hall in aid of the fund. H.R.H. Prince Christian, who was also a subscriber, supported by all the gentry of the neighbourhood, was present, and the concert proved a great success financially. Private subscriptions were raised to defray the expenses of the concert in order that the whole of the profits might be given to the fund. In addition, about fifty collection boxes and a few subscription lists were distributed, and when the fund was closed in 1901 there was a balance in the bank of £201 8s. 4d., all the accounts being duly audited by Mr. J.J. Evans in October 22<sup>nd</sup> of that year.

It so happened that our married local soldiers and sailors came through the war well, and there was not a single claim on the fund. Then arose the question as to its disposal. Seeing the money was collected conditionally for the distribution to local widows and orphans, the Committee did not feel justified in handing it over to any outside fund, as it would have been lost to the town, and at the same time would not have fulfilled the conditions given at the time of collection.

It was then decided to appoint three trustees: Messrs Ifould, G.T. Phillips and A.T. Heelas, to manage the fund, with Mr. James May as honorary legal advisor. The money was promptly withdrawn from the bank and invested with the result that we now have a fund starting at £334 0s. 0d., which I trust will be utilised for relieving the families of our brave soldiers and sailors who are gallantly fighting for their King and

Country. A meeting will be shortly held to elect a new trustee in the place of Mr. E. Ifould, who has resigned, and to make arrangements for the distribution of the fund.

(Signed) Arthur T. Heelas.

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> 1914.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### CIVIL GUARDS

At a meeting held in Friday of last week, the Mayor presiding, the movement of enrolling "loyal citizens and inhabitants" so as to guard life and property was carried a stage further. Members had given in their names as being willing to act as a special police reserve. The Mayor was supported by Admiral Eustace and General Fasken. He pointed out the need of home defence in the matter of spies and spoke of the value of drill. He had asked General Fasken to take command. General Fasken who said he had served for forty years and had again volunteered-(Applause)-accepted the position. He said the special police reserve were not sworn in until they were wanted. Mr. Garry enquired if the men were to drill and prepare as a kind of irregular force. Admiral Eustace said their duty would be to assist the police. It was decided to hold the first drill on Langborough Recreation Ground on Wednesday afternoon.

#### BREAD GIFT

On Monday the bread tickets under Bromley's Charity were distributed by the trustees. The usual St. Bartholomew's Day sermon was preached at All Saint's Church in connection with this charity.

#### NEW MOTOR FIRE ENGINE

The fete fixed for Wednesday last week has been postponed. The new motor fire engine is expected to arrive at one o'clock on Monday.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW CANCELLED

It is advertised that the annual show of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association, which was to take place at Hines Hill on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, is for this year abandoned.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### ST. PAUL'S

The Bishop has licensed the Rev. Ernest George Drummond, M.A., to the curacy of St. Paul, Wokingham.

#### THE HARVEST

Wheat is the crop of the year here, and spring oats, where sown early, are good, but on heavy land, and where late sown, a failure. Barley a fair crop and yield very good but very indifferent sample. Roots are a good plant, and, if rain should come, will be a good crop. Most farms have finished harvest, having had bad seed weather. The hay crop is light but of good quality.

#### TO AID THE BELGIANS

Through the kindness of Mr. Cusack, Shute End House, has been lent for Belgian refugees. Furniture has been lent by a number of the residents of Wokingham, and the house has been thoroughly cleaned by a band of willing woman helpers. The carting of the furniture also has been kindly undertaken by Messrs. Osgood, Laird, Herring, Bullock and Ayers. The following ladies are serving on the Committees:-Miss

Hankey, Miss Sturges, Lady Haversham, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. Durbridge, Mrs. Ardizzone, with Misses Handy and Barry as joint secretaries. Mdlle. Luitzen is managing the household.

#### RIFLE SHOOTING

The Miniature Range is crowded on Monday and Thursday evenings with men who are learning to shoot while the Terrace Room is used for drill, which is being enthusiastically taken up. On Monday night 700 rounds of ammunition were used.

Sat 26th Sept

Lady Eustace died

Lt. Frederick de Vere Allfrey, 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers, only son of Frederick Vere Allfrey and grandson of Mrs Bruce of Arborfield Court, was killed aged 22. He was shot by a wounded German after he had dismounted to extract a lance from a wounded comrade's leg.

Sat 17th Oct

#### PATRIOTIC CONCERT

The Drill Hall was crowded on Wednesday evening, when an excellent concert was given in aid of the local patriotic fund. Throughout the greatest interest was maintained by the crowded audience and appreciation for the excellent numbers presented was shown by loud applause.

The programme was as follows:-

March, Selection, The Wokingham Orchestra: Song and Chorus, "England's Battle Hymn" (F. Sydney Smith); Dr. Nash: Song, "Queen of Nations,"; Miss Olive Crowe: Piano Solo, "Chanson Triste" (Tchaikovsky); Major Adam: Songs, (a) "The Two Grenadiers" (in French) and (b) "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby" (Fred Clay); Mr. Sydney Barraclough: Recitation, "Lasca" (Frank Desprez); Miss Nora Butler: Songs (a) "See, Love, I Bring Thee Flowers" (Frank Lambert), and (b) "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal" (Roger Quinter); Mr. E. Croft: Song "Mother Machree"; Madame Ellen Heron: Violin Solo, "Mazurka" (Mlynarski); Miss Marjorie Bower: Song "Up From Somerset" (Sanderson); Mr. C. Powell Eastbury: Song "Awake Spring" (Montague Phillips); Miss Dorothy Wescott: Song "Tis Jolly to Hunt" (Sterndale Bennett); Dr. Nash: Monologue; Mr. C. Powell Eastbury: "Your King and Country Need You" (Paul Rubens);

Madame Ellen Heron: An amusing one-act farce "Blatherwick's Diplomacy" by J.B. Trenwith, was produced under the direction of Mr. Sydney Barraclough. The characters were:-

Adolphus Blatherwick, an aspiring but impecunious dramatist	Major Adam
Mrs. Eliza Blatherwick, his wife	Mrs. H.B. Hall
Gertrude, their daughter, a suffragette	Miss Crowe
Arthur Chetwynd, her suitor	Mr. McEwan
Gwendoline Mary, the cook	Miss Olive Crowe
John Henry Stubbs, a broker's man	Mr. Ernest Targett
Aunt Matilda (a little deaf)	Miss Dorothy Sale
Edmund Fitzclarence, manager of the Thespian Theatre	Mr. E. Croft

The scene: A morning room in Blatherwick's house.

“God Save the King” was sung by Madame Ellen heron, the well-known local favourite. Mr. Staniland gratuitously printed the programmes and advertised the concert and Mr. P. Sale very kindly sent plants for decoration.

#### MEETING OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES

On Monday evening a meeting of special constables was held in the county Police Station. Supt. Goddard explained that it was proposed to swear in special constables for the county this year, and not for the Borough of Wokingham alone. Admiral Eustace said that the county had responded with a large number of special police reserves. An Act had now been passed which enabled them to swear in special constables, and the County Council had decided to swear in 2,000 to act anywhere. They had heard from the War Office that Wokingham was one of the proclaimed areas, which, although it did not mean it was under Martial Law, it was getting on that way. Bridge guarding was most important. They did not want soldiers to do what they could do themselves. There were 50 or 60 Germans in Wokingham and district, and they must be ready.

#### FIRE CALL

On Sunday afternoon the Fire Brigade received a call from Everseley and within 14 minutes were at the scene of the fire. A store in the occupation of Mr. Dearlove was burnt down, but the efforts of the brigade prevented other damage.

Sat 24th Oct

#### THE WOKINGHAM PICTURE PALACE

A matinee was given at the above theatre on Tuesday in aid of the Belgian refugees. The well-known bass, Mr. Berry, sang “The Battle Hymn,” assisted by a chorus, and later the “Bugle Call”. The directors have much pleasure in handing over £5 to the fund.

#### HELP FOR BELGIAN REFUGEES

The East Berks Women’s Liberal Association have made and sent to the Belgian Relief Fund 125 under-garments, and a large bale of warm clothing. The Hon. secretary, Miss L. Kemp, has received the following message from M. Navaux, secretary of the fund: “Please convey my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the members of your Association who have contributed towards this gift. My countrymen, I am sure, will always feel the deepest gratitude for all that has been done for them in this time of trouble, by the British public.

#### BERKS REGIMENT TOBACCO FUND

A social evening and whist drive was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening in aid of the Tobacco fund for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battn. Royal Berks Regiment at the front. There was a good attendance. Eighteen tables were occupied and the prize-winners were: Ladies: Miss Taylor, Miss Smith and Miss Belcher; Gentlemen: Messrs Stacey, Spencer and Hebbes. The prizes and refreshments were supplied by a committee of ladies.

1915

Sat 23rd Jan



## MILITARY

This week-end Wokingham will be full of troops, for on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers will move from Aldershot to be billeted in various parts of the town, and at Embrook, in order to go through battalion training. Provision has been made to accommodate 1,156 non-commissioned officers and men, with 34 officers. On the same day 37 officers and 1,160 non-commissioned officers and men will move in, belonging to the 13<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry. These men will find billets in the town and at the Tannery.

## DEATH OF MR. GOTELEE

We have to record with regret the death at the age of 80 of Mr Gotelee the well-known stationer and bookseller of the Market-place which occurred on Wednesday morning. The deceased who was blind had been in failing health for the last three years. He was a good chess player and was noted for his kindness and generosity and will be greatly missed. The funeral is arranged for today (Saturday) at St. Paul's Church.

## LEAGUE OF HONOUR

At a meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Miss Talbot gave an earnest address to the large number of women present. A musical programme followed, contributed to by Miss Locke, Mrs. Bousfield, and Mrs. Roberts, violin solo; and Miss Sturges, reading.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb

## OUTBREAK OF FIRE

On Sunday morning a fire broke out at the office at the Saw Mills, destroying several piles of documents, spoiling a typewriter, burning a large portion of wainscoting, and cracking nearly every window pane. It is supposed that a wooden box of cinders inadvertently placed under a table became ignited, and a foreman coming to see to his horses, noticed the flames, which were soon subdued.

## DEPARTURE OF TROOPS

Large numbers of townspeople assembled on Tuesday to give a hearty "send off" to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and the Durham Light Infantry, who left their local billets for Aldershot. The Colonel of the Durhams called for three cheers from his men for "the kindly people of Wokingham," and at the call of the Rector, the Rev. B. Long, cheers were given for the troops. On the previous evening at the St. Paul's Parish Room, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> platoons of the 10<sup>th</sup> Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers presented the Rev. E. G. Drummond with a pipe, in case, and tobacco, and Mr. W.T. Martin with a silver-mounted walking stick, as a token of appreciation of what these gentlemen had done on their behalf. Cheers were given for Miss G. Simmons and the ladies who had helped her with the teas. At the Wesleyan Church, where provision had also been made for the men, a similar meeting was held. The Rector, the Rev. B. Long, and the Mayor, Ald. H.C. Mylne, as well as Councillor W.T. Martin, wished the men God-speed and a safe return at a gathering held at the Town Hall.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

## A PRECAUTION

Public lamps in the borough are now being darkened at the top as a precaution in the case of air raids by the Germans.

Miss Elizabeth Dalley of the Terrace died on Saturday. She was a daughter of the late Mr. E. Dalley.

Sat 27th March

#### 5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION ROYAL BERKS AT WOKINGHAM

On Saturday afternoon, amid some excitement, upwards of 2,000 men, with 60 officers, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Berks and the 7<sup>th</sup> Norfolks marched into the town to their billets, which they will occupy for ten days. The men looked particularly fit after their march from Aldershot and their skirmishing from Eversely. The "cease fire" sounded at "Hagville." After a short rest with "packs off" the two battalions marched into the town, the 5<sup>th</sup> Berks leading, headed by their capital band (drums and fifes, the gift of the county. They were greeted with a cheer as they entered Denmark Street. The church parade on Sunday morning attracted attention. The Drill Hall with its capital arrangements is still going strong, under the direction of the deputy-mayor (Mr. W.T. Martin), as are also the club rooms at Montague House and the Wesleyan schoolroom. There is considerable talent among the men of the Norfolks, and the entertainments at the Drill Hall have been of particular interest, and the large hall has been packed every evening.

#### RECRUITING MEETING

On Friday evening in last week Mr. A.C. White, a representative of the joint Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, held a meeting in the Market Place, and spoke to a large gathering on "The War." The speaker arrived in an armoured motor-car, and spoke from it. The Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne) introduced the speaker in a few well-chosen words. Mr. White gave a masterly address, and emphasised Lord Kitchener's request for "more men, and still more men." Married men had well responded to the call, which should appeal to every man. The time has gone for talking about the causes of the war: everything must be done to bring it to a successful issue for the Allies. To save our land from Belgium's fate, to crush the Prussian Junkerism, and to restore the rights of small States, men, and still more men, were required.. The enemy to be got and kept "on the run," required great forces, which must be kept at strength. The conditions of service were such as would enable dependents to be provided for. A vote of thanks was passed to the speaker on to the motion of the Mayor. Names were taken of volunteers for the army at the close of the meeting. The Boys' Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Co., under Captain the Rev. J.W. Blencoe, and the Scouts, under Assistant Scoutmaster W. Seaward, kept the ground around the armoured car.

Sat 17th April

#### 5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION ROYAL BERKS AT WOKINGHAM

On Saturday afternoon, amid some excitement, upwards of 2,000 men, with 60 officers  
Members of the local fire brigade met on Monday evening and presented Fireman Lord Hillsborough with a firemen's axe of silver steel (chased) with an ebony handle suitably inscribed on the occasion of his Lordship attaining his majority. Deputy Captain Caiger made the presentation.

Sat 22nd May

#### EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED

Mrs. Dunne, wife of Major Dunne of Toutley Hall, has organised a scheme for the collection of eggs in the district for the use of the wounded at the front. 38-40 dozen per week are being sent but more are needed.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June

#### COLLECTION IN AID OF RECREATION TENTS

The collection on Whit Sunday for the recreation tents for soldiers at Windsor Great Park camp and military works at Didcot, etc. realised £28.

#### G.F.S.

The annual festival of the Sonning Deanery branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was held at Wokingham on Wednesday afternoon. A large number of members from various places in the deanery met at The Holt, by permission of the representatives of the Heelas family, for tea. Evensong was said at St. Paul's Church at 7 p.m., when an address was given by the Rev. Percy Nott (rector of Bear Wood). The offertory was divided between the sick funds of Battersea and local branches.

#### MILITARY

On Friday afternoon the 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Division, consisting of the South Wales Borderers, South Lancashires, and 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Cheshires, marched into the town to the number of upwards of 4,000, from Basingstoke, some of the men proceeding to Billingbear and Bear Wood. After church parade on Sunday General Woodward, Brigadier Commandant of the Brigade, inspected the Cheshires in Broad Street. Full use was made of the Soldiers' Club (Montague House), the Drill Hall, and other rooms provided for the benefit of the men. Changing the guard was carried out in full military style at the Town Hall, where defaulters were confined, and this was witnessed each evening by a large gathering of townspeople. The troops left for Aldershot on Wednesday morning, after a much shorter stay than was anticipated.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June

#### CLEVER FLYING

Great interest was shown in the clever flying of a pilot in an army biplane on Saturday who went through a magnificent series of evolutions over the Town Hall and Police-station. The same airman was again in evidence on Tuesday afternoon and his flying was keenly watched by a large number of people. Rumour has it that the airman was Pilot Bishop, son of Mr. Bishop, formerly steward at Bear Wood Farm.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June

On Tuesday the Fire Brigade received a call to a Heath Fire at Crowthorne. Within a few minutes of the alarm the firemen were off in the new motor fire engine, and were soon at the scene of the outbreak which they were able to cope with successfully.

Sat 3rd July

#### RECRUITING MARCH AT WOKINGHAM

On Monday the town was visited by a detachment of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Battalions Royal Berkshire Regiment under the command of Major Tennyson D'Eyncourt. They were met at the borough boundary, Easthampstead Road, by Major Denis de Vitre (local recruiting officer) and the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman H.C. Mylne) accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr. Clifton) and the sergeant-at-mace. The party then marched to the Drill Hall, headed by their band playing martial airs. The officers and men were then entertained to tea, the arrangements being under the superintendence of the Deputy Mayor (Mr. Councillor Martin) assisted by the following ladies: Miss Simmons, Mrs. Stephenson Barry, Miss Beaumont, and others. After tea the Mayor gave a short address of welcome to the troops. The Deputy-Mayor also spoke, and called for three cheers for the ladies who had assisted in the arrangements, which were heartily given. Major D'Eyncouty then asked for three cheers for Mayor

In the evening the detachment paraded the town headed by their band, concluding their march at the Market Place, where a large number of people were assembled. A big motor lorry was also there, in which were the Mayor of Wokingham, Mr. Councillor Sale, the Rev. B. Long, Major Denis de Vitre, Major D'Eyncourt, and Mr. Bryan O'Donnell, M.A. The Mayor introduced the speakers. Capital addresses were given by Major D'Eyncourt, Mr. O'Donnell M.A. (Parliamentary Recruiting Committee), and Lieutenant Thompson. The rector (the Rev. B. Long) said that he felt sure all those who were soon going back to the front again would go back much more heartily if they thought everyone in England who could go was following them out. He thanked the speakers for coming and addressed the people. Mr. Councillor Sale said that everyone must think very seriously about enlisting, and urged all who could to join. At the conclusion several recruits came forward.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> July

#### WOKINGHAM MAN KILLED IN ACTION

Deep regret is felt at the death of Corporal H. Cooper, 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper of Seaford Road, Wokingham who was killed in action on June 25<sup>th</sup>. He had only been at the front a few weeks and was a very promising young soldier. His death cast a gloom over all his company and sincere sympathy is felt with his parents.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July

The members of the local Fire Brigade have appointed Lieut. A Goswell Hon. Sec., and appointed Mr. E V Robinson the Hon. Treasurer in place of Sergeant H Watts, who is now serving in the Berks Yeomanry.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF WAR

Wednesday last being the Anniversary of the Declaration of War, special services were held at All Saints Church. The eight o'clock evening service was well attended. The Mayor and members of the Corporation and officials were present.

#### BELGIAN BABIES FUND

After the services on the last two Sundays a Belgian Red Cross nurse has, by kind permission of the Rector stationed herself at the door of All Saints Church with a box, collecting for the Belgian Babies Fund. She has collected the satisfactory sum of £10 11s.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Aug

#### PHOTOGRAPH FOUND ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Miss A. Paice of Goodchild Road, Wokingham has just had her photograph which was found on the battlefield, returned to her. It was enclosed by the Censor in a letter from Private Palmer to his wife at London Road, Wokingham, and a note was appended by the Censor asking Mrs. Palmer to forward the photograph to its owner, whose address was written on the back. The photograph was given to a private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Norfolks when he was billeted in Wokingham and who is reported missing.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Sept

The funeral was reported of Mr. Frederick William Allfrey of Stanbury, Spencers Wood who died at the age of 97. He was buried in Grazely Churchyard.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. T.E. ELLISON I.C.S.

Very widespread regret was experienced in Wokingham and district when it became known that Mr. Thomas Edward Ellison, I.C.S., of "The Elms," Wokingham had passed away. The deceased gentleman, who was 72 years of age, was the eldest son of the late Mr. George Thomas Ellison, a well-known solicitor, of Seymour Street, London, W. Educated at Bradfield College, and afterwards prepared for his distinguished career by private tuition, Mr. Ellison took a very high place in his first attempt to enter the Indian Civil Service, from which he retired as a judge, many years ago. He came to live at Wokingham, where he was always most highly respected and esteemed. He became one of the foundation managers of St. Paul's parochial schools, of which for several years past he had acted as corresponding manager. He some years back generously purchased the whole of the St. Paul's school building and playground, together with the parish rooms and premises adjoining, and vested them in the Rector and trustees in March, 1911—a tablet on the clock-tower of the school commemorating this.

*N.B. In May 1911 the parishioners presented Mr. Ellison with a solid silver casket, now known as the Ellison Casket. The casket, approximately 12 inches long, 5 inches wide and 2 inches deep was presented to Mr. Ellison by subscription of parishioners of St. Paul's in gratitude and appreciation for presenting the Parish Rooms and School together with the land. There are small enamel or porcelain miniatures of St. Paul's Church on one side and the Parish Room on the other. Some of the ornate decoration seems to be the oak leaves of Wokingham. It contains an illuminated scroll listing the names of the subscribers, and their sincere appreciation. The casket is now kept in the town hall and is displayed with items of the town silver on special occasions.*

A whole-hearted son of the church, Mr. Ellison did much else for the parish he so loved, being a generous subscriber to the various church funds and institutions, and making handsome contributions towards the restoration of the roof and other improvements, and giving largely to the parochial institutions and to the Nurses' Fund, etc. He was the parish warden for many years.

He was a member of the Wokingham Town Council from 1902-1910, giving his services as Mayor's auditor and rendering valuable help in the management of the affairs of the town, his expert knowledge of administration and finance being highly appreciated by his colleagues. He, more than once, declined to accept the chief magistracy. He held the position of lieutenant in the Boys Brigade, in which he was

most interested, and he did good work indeed when he acquired the old St. Paul's Parish Room on The Terrace (where the art classes used to be held) and in the long garden at the rear fitted up a miniature rifle range, which has proved of so much service to the members of the Rifle Club.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, the internment being in a new brick grave, which was very beautifully lined with bright-coloured flowers by the gardener. Muffled peals were rung both before and after the service.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

J. Taylor was re-elected Town Crier; C. Sparkes Mace Bearer; Hon. Constables: W.H. Wilson, A.J. Rodgers, R. Turner and E. Jeffrey.

## 1916

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

### THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

One thousand one hundred and sixty-four new-laid eggs in addition to the weekly collection were sent on December 21<sup>st</sup> from the Wokingham District Depot as a Christmas gift and gratitude to our wounded soldiers.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

Dr T B Bokenham of Broad Street has been elected by the Committee of St. Paul's school managers as one of the foundation managers in place of the late Mr T E Ellison.

Sat 8th April

The Earl of Hillsborough, elder son of and heir of the Marquis of Downshire entered his 23<sup>rd</sup> year yesterday having been born on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1894. His Lordship held a commission for a short time as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. In the Berks. Yeomanry but recently resigned on account of delicate health.

Sat 22nd April

Miss Vera Allfrey only daughter of Mr & Mrs Vere Allfrey of Ashridgewood married Capt. Francis Anderson of Little Harle Tower, Northumberland.

Sat 6th May

### THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

From Wokingham and District Depot 102 dozen eggs have been sent this Easter to the above. The following churches have contributed: St. Paul's, Wokingham 83; Barkham 107; and 2s. 6d. (spent on eggs); All Saints', Binfield, 140; St. Marks, Binfield, 19; Hurst Church and Hurst collection 180. The weekly collection is well supported. Eggs are sent every Tuesday morning, and are gratefully received any time on Monday by Mrs. Dunne, controller, Toutley Hall, Wokingham.

### WOMEN AND WORK ON THE LAND

A lecture on woman and work on the land was given in the Town Hall, Wokingham, by Miss Pott, one of the party of Berkshire ladies who went to France to study the work of the French women. Mr. P. Sale occupied the chair. Miss Pott gave an interesting and instructive account of her visit to France, and illustrated it with lantern

slides. She urged all the women who could to do everything that is possible to increase the production of vegetables, etc., and also to enter their names on a register so that the farmers may know who is willing to undertake such work. Miss Cruttwell, of "Wroxton," South Drive, Wokingham, has charge of the register.

#### THE TRIBUNAL

The local tribunal for the Borough of Wokingham was held in the Town Hall on Monday. Present: The Mayor, in the chair, Sir Henry Kirk, Alderman Sale, Councillors Blake and Hammond, Mr. George Beale, with Mr. Vincent Craig (military representative), and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (clerk and Town Clerk).

The Home and Colonial Stores, Ltd. applied for exemption for their local manager, Mr. W.J. Ivory, and were represented by one of the chief district superintendents, who gave evidence that his firm had given every facility for their employees to join the Army or Navy, and even now were only making applications in respect of their branch managers.—Conditional exemption was allowed.

Frederick David Ayres married, of Langborough Road, Wokingham, upholster, etc. claimed exemption on business grounds, as if he were taken it would mean losing all his trade, his only support—Three months' exemption.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> July

Mr. and Mrs. Mead, of Broad Street, have received news of the death of their son Lieut. Mead, killed in action. Deceased, who came over with the first Canadian Contingent, was a promising soldier and had seen much service at the front. Some time ago he was promoted to Lieutenant, and had recently transferred to the R.F.A.

#### WOKINGHAM WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

An association, called the Wokingham War Savings Association, has recently been started for the purpose of purchasing War Savings Certificates. An investor may pay in each week any number of sixpences he pleases and when 15s. 6d. has been paid in he will be allotted a certificate worth £1 in five years (Government security). The committee consists of the Mayor (chairman), the Rev. B. Long, Miss C.F.M. Burnaby Dyott, Mr. H.A. Hammond, Mr. J.H. Byard (treasurer), and the Rev. Nichols (secretary).

#### DR. BARNARDO'S BOYS AT WOKINGHAM

Dr. Barnardo's Musical Boys, under Mr. A.J. Mayers (deputation secretary), gave an interesting entertainment at the Electric Cinema (kindly lent by the directors) on Friday last week. The theatre was open at 4.15 for young people, and at 7.30, when the Mayor, Alderman H.C. Mylne, took the chair. The boys gave a unique presentation of the National Anthem of the Allies, and selections were played by Highland pipers in full dress. A special show of animated pictures was given, including "Tiny Tots at work and play," "Sports," "Girls' Drill," "Emigrants off to Canada," "Training in the Workshops," "At sea; man overboard; the rescue," "Heroes from Canada," etc.

#### WOKINGHAM LOCAL TRIBUNAL

Mr. W.H. Wheeler of 54 Peach Street, bootmaker and repairer, applied for a renewal of his certificate and was granted exemption to November 1.

Mr. Robert Kirkby, 15, Oxford Road, grocer and provision merchant—November 1.

Mr. Arthur Smalley, Forest Road, Binfield, brewer's drayman.—November 1.

Mr. White, of Markham House, applied for exemption for Joseph Pocock, chauffeur and gardener.—No exemption.

Mr. Albert Charman, of Oakleigh Cottage, Wiltshire Road, butler, was granted was granted exemption from combatant service and from non-combatant also, provided he takes work of national importance.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> August

#### TRIBUNAL

At the Wokingham Borough Tribunal on Tuesday there were present: The Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne), Sir Henry Kirk, Alderman Sale, Councillor Blake and Mr. G. Beald; Mr. V. Craig (military representative) and Mr. Clifton (clerk). E. Stevens, Barkham Road, hairdresser etc., was granted exemption until October 8<sup>th</sup> on business grounds.

On Wednesday the choirboys of All Saints' Church were given an outing. Accompanied by the Rev. P.R.S. Nicholls and Mr. H.R. Eady (organist) they went by water from Reading to Henley, where they visited Friar Park.

The scholars at the Palmer School, by contributions limited to one penny in each case, have been able to send parcels to two "old boys" who are prisoners in Germany—Privates Arthur Gasson and William Band.

#### CASUALTIES

Private Harold Street of the Royal Berkshire Regiment who was killed in action on July 24<sup>th</sup> was, prior to the war, employed at Star Mead, Wokingham. He was 18 years of age. His parents, who live in Wescott Road, have received letters of sympathy from the officers, stating that deceased was killed while carrying bombs to trenches recently captured from the enemy.

The parents of Private Robert Brooks, of the Kings Royal Rifles, who live at Plough Lane, have received intimation that he has again been wounded at the front. Private Brooks enlisted at the commencement of the war, and was shot through the chest in January, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks have another son serving.

Lieut. S.E. Sale—On August 4<sup>th</sup> Lieut. S.E. Sale, Royal Garrison Artillery, was admitted to hospital suffering from shell shock, and he is now at Osborne. He had a narrow escape, being almost buried by the explosion, but his injuries apart from shock are slight. His battery has been engaged in the Somme advance from the commencement of the British offensive.

#### LETTER OF THANKS

The directors of the Electric Theatre have received a letter from the secretary to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, heartily thanking them for the use of the theatre on the occasion of the boys' recent visit to Wokingham, which resulted in £11 16s. 5d. being collected.

#### CHOIRBOYS' GATHERING

The choirboys of St. Paul's were 'at home' on Wednesday on the Wokingham cricket ground, where they entertained the choirboys of St. Peter's, Earley, who were



in charge of Mr. G. Waite. A cricket match had been arranged, with tea and sports, and the boys spent a most enjoyable time. Mr. Durbridge, the organist, and Mr. Waite were responsible for the arrangements, and Mrs. Durbridge, Mrs. Waite, and other ladies assisted with the tea. The cricket match was easily won by the Earley boys by an innings and 45 runs. The prizes were distributed in the evening.

#### LOCAL CRICKETER'S NARROW ESCAPE

Private W. Langley, Royal Fusiliers, a well-known London Road Club cricketer, known as "Fatty," in a letter to a friend at Embrook relates his marvellous escape from death when he was recently wounded. He says: "I have only got to thank my spoon and pay-book for not being killed. It cut my pay-book through, and my spoon was bent in two. I am keeping my spoon for a souvenir, and I shall keep my pay-book if they will let me. I saw several Wokingham boys in the hospital, all wounded, All our boys went for it like 'Boys of the Old Brigade.' They stepped out and charged across as if going to a church parade. It was a treat to see the way they went across. Private Langley has a medal from the London Road C.C. awaiting his return, and has also distinguished himself in sports in France. He has won a medal for boxing, and another for flat racing. He was treated at a hospital in France. He received a severe injury to the ribs.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

The popular manager of the Electric Theatre (Mr A P Stevens) having been called to the colours, the directors have appointed Mr F S Perkins of Wokingham to fill the vacancy.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The adopted war prisoner, Corporal A.C. Langley, having been transferred to Switzerland, parcels are now sent to another war prisoner viz. J.P. Griffiths, Stendal-Sachen, Germany. Parcels of food and tobacco have been sent out.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

The following were elected:

Town Crier: Mr J Taylor; Srgt at Mace: C. Sparkes

Honorary Constables: R W Turner, W H Wilson, W Pearce, A Jervis. (A. J. Rodgers and E. Jeffrey are on active service.)

Medals and a bar were presented to three members of the Fire Brigade:

Eng F G Martin for 20 years' service

Eng F Knight for 20 years' service.

Eng. W B Martin who already received a medal for 20 years, received a bar representing five years.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

The Wokingham Platoon V.T.C. paraded on Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. under the command of Lt. Brodie and Sergeant-Instructor Hands. The platoon, about thirty strong, marched to Langborough recreation Ground where they were inspected by Adjutant Kingham of Reading.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> March

Appeals in support of National Service were made from the pulpits in the various places of worship on Sunday.

#### VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN WAR-TIME

The fourth lecture on Wednesday, in the Town Hall by Mr. Jones, was of the usual interesting and instructive character, and was well attended. Advice was given on the sowing of carrots, turnips, broccoli etc., but the lecturer strongly advised all present to concentrate their principal efforts upon providing food for winter use. The lectures are proving very popular, and the numerous questions at the close is evidence of the lively interest taken in them. The advice and instruction given should prove of the utmost value to the district.

#### THE WAR

The friends of Corporal Reginald Potter (Royal Berks) who was injured accidentally at the front, will be grieved to hear that it has been found necessary to amputate the injured leg. He was a chorister at St. Paul's. Deep sympathy is felt for him and the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Potter who live at Embrook. Another son, Petty Officer George Potter, of H.M.S. Liverpool, has recently died of enteric, and one was lost in H.M.S. Hampshire. Percy Potter, another son, who was badly wounded, is still in hospital.

#### CONCERT

The staff at Miss Baker's (Grosvenor House School) gave an excellent concert in the Schoolroom on Wednesday afternoon, in aid of huts for women munition workers. Several of the scholars assisted, and the room was crowded. The various items on the programme were well sustained, and all those taking part are to be highly commended for the performance. A sum of £3 will be handed over to the fund.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE

A public meeting, presided over by the Mayor, was held in the Town Hall on Thursday evening. The speaker was Mr. J. Farnworth, representing the headquarters of the movement. There was a good attendance. The speaker said there were two questions every citizen must ask himself in connection with the scheme of National Service. The first was, what is my individual responsibility to the State in times of national danger? And the second was, what is the State's relationship to me in time of national danger. He proceeded to drive home very forcibly the necessity for all to do their utmost in the interests of the State. The National Service movement was entirely a new and direct appeal for service, and was made principally to the middle-aged man who stood outside the fighting age. There was no excuse for such men to hold back, and the appeal was as direct as that made to the young men to go to the recruiting station. It was made to all such men to enrol and it was pleasing to note the Church of England had set an example by releasing the clergy, and the same applied to the Nonconformist ministry. If all followed the example there would be a magnificent response to the appeal, and he urged all present to take the matter to heart. Every

worker was wanted, and if enrolled there would be the opportunity of appeal to determine in what capacity he would be best serving the State. Agriculture and other essential occupations would naturally be assisted; but if he were asked "Should such workers enrol?" his reply was "Yes." It was an enormous task we had in hand, and one in which all could do his or her part.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> April

#### DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES

By permission of the Mayor the surveyor (Mr. Marks) was able to arrange on Thursday last week for the distribution of a large proportion of the seed potatoes ordered by residents through the County Council. In view of the holiday season the distributing was most opportune, and the purchasers who were fortunate enough to receive the potatoes were very grateful for the arrangements made to have them delivered.

During Mr. Salmon's absence on military service, Mr. D.M. Stevenson has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour as local agent for Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchange work. Mr. Stevenson has already considerable experience in such work, having acted as deputy to the local agent for some time past. The address of the local office will be Denton Chambers, The Terrace, Wokingham.

#### EASTER

The services at the places of worship were well attended. The anthem at All Saints' was "The Hallelujah Chorus," and at St. Paul's "The have taken away my Lord" (Stainer).

#### GARDEN LECTURE BY MR. E.R. JANES

Mr. E.R. Janes, F.R.H.S., of University College, Reading, gave, on Wednesday evening in the Town Hall, his 5<sup>th</sup> lecture on vegetable cultivation in war-time, and dealt with sowing early dwarf beans and running beans in boxes, globe beet, carrots, and successional peas, planting main crop potatoes, and methods of supporting runner beans. The Mayor presided.

#### TEA TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

In connection with the Wokingham Women's Meeting a tea and social was given in the schoolroom of the Wesleyan Church Wednesday to 50 wounded Canadian Soldiers from Bear Wood Hospital. A gramophone kindly lent by Mr. Councillor W. Bodle, greatly added to the pleasure of the tea. Councillor extended a very hearty welcome to the soldiers and expressed the warm appreciation at the way they had come from over the seas in response to the country's call. The programme was sustained by Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Anderson, Miss D. Sale, Miss E. Yalden, Miss M. Boshier, Miss M. Webb, Mr. T.M. Welch, Mr. W. G. Jeffries, Mr. J. Baverstock, Trooper Curle and Pastor W.D. Elphick.

During the interval refreshments and cigarettes were supplied to the soldiers. At the close the President of the Women's Meeting, Mrs. Bennett, said they appreciated all the soldiers were doing for them and proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and all who had helped. She also read some lines composed for the occasion by the wife of Councillor Bodle. Two of the soldiers responded.

#### THE NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION

In connection with the Wokingham and District Depot, 108 dozen eggs were sent to the Central Depot of the base hospitals this week. Contributions were received from

the following most of whom are regular weekly contributors:- St. Paul's Church: Miss Annesley, Mrs. Bailey, the Misses Cobham, Mr. C. Bowyer, Mr. C. Bowyer (who collected £2 0s. 8d. in money) the Misses Campbell, Mrs. Coston, Lady Cunningham, Miss Ellison, Mrs. Paley, the Misses Simonds, the Misses Tatham, Mr. Tebbitt, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Mrs. Cornish, Mrs Mansfield, Captain W. Godsall, Mrs Edlmann, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs C. Hobbs, Mrs. Farrington-Evans, Mr. Parsons, Mrs. F. Heelas, Miss Philbrick, Mrs. Monkton-Brown, Miss Deane, Mr. Vlasto, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs West, Mrs. Vere Allfrey, and others.

In addition to these 34 eggs were received from the Binfield Churches, 135 from Hurst Church and 19 from Hurst School children. Barkham sent 50 eggs from the Sunday School Children, who, instead of buying sweets during Lent saved their pennies for this purpose. Mr. Barker, the Binfield carrier continues to give his services free. Mrs. Terence Dunne is the controller.

N.B. Dr. T B Bokenham was sidesman at St. Paul's Church.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> April

F W Saulez of Wixenford was appointed to the vacancy at Lucas Hospital caused by the death of Rev J Stratton.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> May

#### LOCAL BOROUGH TRIBUNAL

At a meeting held on Monday, Mr. J.A. Aldridge of Gipsy Lane applied for further exemption, and was granted till June 30 on domestic grounds.--The military applied for the withdrawal of conditional exemption given to Mr. A.R. Griffith, ironmonger, of Broad Street. Two month's exemption was granted.—R.G. Nicholls, of Wescott Road, licensed hawkers, made an application for further exemption. No further time was allowed.

#### THE FOOD PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION

This association with the Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne) as Chairman, Mr. F.W. Maddox, hon. secretary, and Mr. V. Craig hon. treasurer, has done excellent service in providing seed potatoes, also expert advice upon gardening matters. The hon. secretary and the committee of expert gardeners, as well as voluntary canvassers, have earned the gratitude of many who would otherwise have found serious difficulty in obtaining seed potatoes.

#### NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS – GOOD RESULTS

Excellent results are shown from the recent audit of accounts of associations affiliated to the National Committee through the Local Committee. Thirteen associations have been affiliated in the borough during the past six or seven weeks, comprising about 550 members. For those working Scheme £5, 7,920 6d. coupons have been applied for to date. Nine associations are working this scheme, three are working 2A and one 2B. The number of 15s 5d. certificated purchased exceeds 750. In one school (Wescott Road), there are 122 members, and over 200 certificates have been purchased. At the request of the Food Controller, the local committee are giving serious attention to the Food Economy Campaign and have appointed Mr. F.W. Finch as local correspondent in connection with this work.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June

A horse attached to a milk cart, in Murdoch Road, took fright and bolted on Whit Monday afternoon. It was fortunately stopped at the junction of Fair View Road with Langborough Road, before any mischief was done.

The usual Whitsuntide Children's Flower Service was held at St. Paul's Church on Sunday afternoon. Large numbers of flowers were brought by the Sunday School Children, and these were sent to various London and other hospitals.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July

Mr C Trill, motor-car proprietor of Peach Street received news on Tuesday that his eldest son Clarence had been killed on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst in an explosion. He had attended the council schools and on leaving there was employed by Messrs Sales & Son. He had only joined up in the Royal Navy five months previously.

The consignment of 400 dozen fruit-preserving bottles purchased by the Town Council has been delivered and purchasers have been busy during the week removing them from the Town Hall premises. About 250 dozen have already been disposed of. It is satisfactory to note that the number of breakages during transit was very small.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> July

On Saturday morning, between 10 and 11, a leveret made its way via the main streets from west to east amid considerable excitement.

A swarm of bees found a most unusual resting place in the town on Saturday about noon, finally settling on a lamp-post in the Market Place. They were removed during the afternoon by Mr. W. Martin.

About 25 names were taken in the Market Place after an address by Councillor L.E. Quelch, of Reading, who advocated the formation of a local branch of the National Union of General Workers.

#### LOCAL SCHOOLMASTER WINS MILITARY MEDAL

Lance-Corporal Arthur Myatt, City of London Regiment, Civil Service Rifles, has just been awarded the Military Medal for an act of great gallantry. On a night in June his company was holding a front trench. On being relieved Lance-Corporal Myatt and his chum were the only fit men left. All night, with their Lewis gun, they had held off the enemy, beside attending to the wounded. Mr. Myatt is a well-known local schoolmaster, and was educated at Palmer School and Culham College.

#### DEATH IN THE HANDS OF THE TURKS

The parents of Driver Frank Treacher, Royal Field Artillery, residing at Embrook Lodge, Wokingham, have just received official notice of his death while a prisoner in the hands of the Turks. He was captured with General Townsend's forces at Kut on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1916. His parents had not seen him for nine years. When war broke out he was in India with his battery, within a month of coming home time expired. He was sent to Mesopotamia, with the sad result as above. Mr. and Mrs. W. Treacher have two other sons serving in H.M. Forces. Much sympathy is felt for them in their bereavement. The deceased soldier was well known as a lad in Wokingham, where he attended Palmer School.

## WOUNDED SOLDIERS REGALED

Some forty to fifty wounded soldiers from the Bear Wood and Easthampstead Road War Hospitals were entertained to tea and a concert on Wednesday in the Baptist Sunday School. The hostesses were the Wesleyan Women's Meeting, and but for the weather, the function would have been held in Alderman Sale's garden, Easthampstead Road. A bounteous tea was provided. Mrs. A.J. Bennett (president) and Mrs. Tucker (secretary) carried out the arrangements. Following tea a capital programme was carried out by Misses D. Sale and M. Boshier, Mrs. Trowell, Sergeant Steer, Sergeant Minhinnick, Private Foreman, and others. Miss Wakefield accompanied on the piano. The Rev. T. W. Beck, of reading presided.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> August

Extract from Palmer School annual treat article—*The members of the Wokingham Fire Brigade attended as usual with their engine for the purpose of boiling the water required for the tea.*

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Aug

### SUB-LIEUT. VICTOR H. NICHOLSON KILLED IN ACTION

News was received on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. that Sub-Lieut. Victor Hill Nicholson, youngest son of the late Mr. A.J. Nicholson and of Mrs. Nicholson of Chetwood, Wokingham, was killed in action at sea on August 9. He was 20 years of age. Educated at Wixenford School, Wokingham, he then proceeded to the Royal Naval College Osborne, and Dartmouth. Since the commencement of hostilities he had been continuously at sea, and was present at the Battle of Jutland, May 31-June 1, 1916. Mr. Nicholson and family are well known among the leading families in the neighbourhood and much sympathy is felt for them in their bereavement. The three brothers of the deceased lieutenant are serving as officers in HM Forces. A memorial service is to be held at All Saints' Church on Tuesday.

## CASUALTIES

Private H.W. Day, 6 Queen's Terrace, Wokingham, Grenadier Guards, is reported as having been killed in action on July 31. He was 23 years of age. An officer, writing to his parents says—"Your son was excellent, brave and frequently cheering his comrades on until he fell. He carried out his duty in every way." Before joining the Colours two years ago he was employed at the Wokingham Saw Mills. Two more brothers are now serving on the Western Front.

Private A. Hallworth, Rose Street, Wokingham, killed in action, July 31, aged 20. Before joining up last October he assisted his father in his business as baker and corn factor. These two men were well known to each other, and were together but a short time before both meeting their fate on the same day.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

Potato growers are advised to carefully watch their stored potatoes, especially those grown in low-lying districts, with a view to removing any showing signs of disease.

## OUTBREAK OF FIRE

The Fire Brigade received a call about 2.30 p.m. on Friday last week when it was discovered that the outbuildings in the occupation of Mr. Harris at Embrook were on fire. Within ten minutes of the call the members of the brigade, with their motor

engine, were on the spot, and by their promptness were able to save the house adjoining, which was in danger of destruction, the thatched roof having already caught.

#### CANADIAN PRISONERS WELCOMED

A very hearty welcome was accorded to about forty of our Canadian soldiers when they arrived at Wokingham on Thursday evening en route for Bear Wood to recuperate, having been prisoners in Germany and exchanged. All the people in the town appeared to have turned out to welcome them, although the notice was very short, and upon their arrival by the six o'clock train they were received with loud cheers. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, Coun. W.T. Martin and members of the council were present, together with the fire brigade, and the children from all the schools in the town. The Boys' Brigade drums and bugles, the Palmer School Cadet Corps drum and fife, and the band from the Depot, Royal Berks Regiment, enlivened the proceedings during the time of waiting. The Deputy-Mayor, in a short speech, said how glad the townspeople were to see the men. He thanked them for their services, and hoped they would soon recover from the hardships they had undergone. A procession was formed under the direction of Supt. Goddard and his staff, and proceeded round Wellington Road to the Market Place and home to Bear Wood through Broad Street. Loud cheers greeted the men all along the route. About 400 of the convalescent soldiers from Bear Wood were present, and the Cycle Corps, with gaily decorated cycles. The cars conveying the returned warriors were decked with flags and ribbons, and at a great many houses along the route the Union Jack was flying.

Sat 17th Nov

#### CASUALTY

Mrs Ballard of 5, Gipsy Lane has received news that her son, Private, W.E. Ballard (Canadians) has been wounded in action. Mrs. Ballard has three sons serving, and one has been killed at the front.

Private Arthur Strange, Grenadier Guards, has been wounded for the second time. Towards the end of October he was shot through both thighs by an enemy sniper. He is now in hospital in England.

#### MILITARY MEDAL WON

The Military Medal has been awarded to Sergt. Robert Brooks, Kings' Royal Rifles (son of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks), of Plough Lane, for conspicuous bravery near Ypres. Sergt. Brooks enlisted soon after the outbreak of the war and has been wounded three times. He was recently promoted to sergeant.

#### TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

A sale of work for the benefit of the Town Hall Working Party will be held on Wednesday and Thursday next week. This organisation, which is under the supervision of the Mayoress, is recognised by the War Office; it is greatly in need of funds and it is doing, and has done, very valuable work in providing garments for our soldiers and sailors.

The sale will be opened by Mr. Ernest Gardner. Contributions will be gratefully received by the Mayoress, Mrs. Hammond, Miss Ellison, Miss Blandy, Mrs. Barry, Miss Amyatt and Miss Cooper

### “OUR DAY”

“Our Day” effort on Saturday in aid of hospitals for our wounded sailors and soldiers, through the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem proved a great success, thanks to the untiring efforts of the flag sellers. The collection amounted to £25 18s. 3d., made up as under Mr. T Darbourn, £3 18s. 9d.; Sister Shepherd, £3 10s. 3d; Miss E. Fielder, £3 4s. 7d.; Mrs. H. Blake, £2 11s. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., made up by her to £3; Mr. T. Bow, £2 7s. 6d.; Miss Boddington, £2 5s. 9d.; Miss Hurdwell, £1 13s. 8d.; Mrs. R. Anderson, £1 0s. 9d.; Mrs W. Alexander, £1 0s. 3d.; Mrs. G. White, 19s. 5d.; Mr. T. Douglas, 18s.; Master Lush, 15s.; Mrs. H. Butler, 13s. 10.; Miss E. Butler, 10s.; Town Hall box, 6d.; Total: £25 18s. 3d. A collection at All Saints’ Church at the morning service, attended by the Mayor on Sunday, amounted to £10 15s. 9d., making the total £36 14s. The Mayor at the counting on Saturday, at which were present also Councillor Hammond, Messrs C. Lush, G. Darbourn, G. B[illegible], and T. Douglas, thanked the flag sellers for their efforts, also all others who had assisted. The money was for the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who were doing noble work. Mr. Darbourn said he had been asked to say that £35 had been sent up from Pinewood Sanatorium for the Red Cross work.

### DEATH OF LIEUT COCKRELL

Lieut. William Archer Cockrell, adjutant at the No. 4 Remount Depot, Arborfield, died suddenly on Saturday night, at his residence, [illegible], Park Road, Wokingham. He apparently retired in his usual health, but during the night passed away from an attack of heart trouble. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Cockrell, it being only a month ago that their only daughter, aged 13, passed away after but a very short illness.

The funeral, a military one, took place on Wednesday, at St. Paul’s Church, Wokingham, where deceased had been in the habit of worshipping during his residence in Wokingham.

A gun-carriage, drawn by six splendid black horses, with a mounted sergeant in charge, conveying the remains on their last journey. A firing party was supplied by the Middlesex Regiment, and some 100 non-commissioned officers and men were present from the No. 1 Remount Depot The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and eight sergeants acted as bearers.

At the close of the graveside service three volleys rang out. The soldiers acted as escort and lined the pathway.

The solemn ceremony was witnessed by large crowds of people. Police and specials, under Supt. Goddard, kept the ground.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

### DEATH OF MISS J. ROBERTS

Miss Julian Roberts, a well-known inhabitant of Wokingham, died suddenly on Wednesday at 5, The Terrace, Wokingham, where she had resided for some time past. She was 80 years of age, and the eldest daughter of Mr. John Roberts, of Wokingham. Her brother was for some years Town Clerk of Wokingham, and her father was alderman of the old Wokingham Local Board. The deceased was for some time hon. secretary of the Wokingham Habitation of the Primrose League. She was buried at All Saints on the following Saturday. Two of the mourners were Mrs Basnett and Miss Helen Roberts, sisters.

### MAYORESS WORKING PARTY, TWO DAYS’ SALE



The Town Hall presented a pretty scene on Wednesday and Thursday on the occasion of the two-days' sale, held by the Mayoress' Working Party (recognised by the War Office). Stalls were arranged around the hall in an artistic manner, and were exceedingly well managed by the ladies in charge.

At eleven o'clock on Wednesday Mrs. Ernest Gardner opened the sale in a short but very appropriate speech. Introduced by the Mayor (Alderman H.C. Mylne), Mrs Gardner said the Mayor and Mayoress had kindly asked her to come and open the sale. The Mayoress' Working Party had been working well in Wokingham, and in nine months had sent up to headquarters 4,000 garments. She thought that was really magnificent, and she had great pleasure in opening the sale, and hoped it would bring in a large sum of money with which to purchase materials.

Among those present at the opening were the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Mrs. Murdoch, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Walter, Lieut.-Col. J.B. Walker, and Miss Walker, while, during the two days, large numbers of the residents visited the Town Hall, and a capital result was obtained. Among the articles for sale were a number of beautifully made net bags, the work of some of the blinded soldiers.

The competitions, held in the council chamber, were: One-minute pin sticking, putting marbles into jar with chop sticks, scent guessing, weight competition of cake and apple, and drawing a pig with closed eyes. The stalls and stallholders Provisions—Mrs. Mylne and Miss Mylne, assisted by Mrs. Pither, Mrs. Clifton, and Mrs. Frank Heelas.

Soldiers' and sailors' comforts—Mrs Hammond, assisted by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Dyke Marsh, Mrs. Player, Mrs. Harwood, Miss Bromley, and Miss Mercer.

“White Elephant.”—Miss Blandy, assisted by Mrs. Farrington Evans, Miss F. Simmonds, Mrs. Fryer, and Miss Newman.

1s. and 6d. Stall.—Mrs. Barry, assisted by Mrs. Kimber and Miss Kimber, Miss Bankhead Brown, Mrs. Gorely, Mrs. Graham Bell, Mrs. Walter, and Miss Leadbetter. Fancy and Plain Articles.—Miss M. Ellison, assisted by Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. E.E. Smith, Miss S. Lloyd, Miss Barry and Mrs. Watts.

Ration Tea.—Miss Cooper, the Misses Kimber (2), Miss Long, the Misses Caiger (2), Miss Dandridge, Miss Voss, Mrs. Tee, and Miss Letchford.

Competitions.—Miss Amyatt, assisted by Mrs. Simpson, Miss Maunsell, Miss Cornish, Miss Godwin Austen, Miss Headington,, and Miss Walker.

Hon. secretary, Miss Blandy.

The total result is not yet available, but it is well over £100. On both days there were excellent attendances, and buying was brisk. On Wednesday evening several articles were put up for sale by auction, including a fowl which was eventually sold to the Mayor for £3. The result must be most gratifying to the members of the War Working Party and other helpers who have worked so hard for the success.

## 1918

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May

CSM Alfred Jeffcock Rifle Brigade was killed in action on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March at the age of 21 years. He was the youngest son of Mrs Jeffcock of 21, Easthampstead Road. His rapid promotion was noted. His brother is wounded and his father died a few months ago.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug

Lieut. Allan H. Perkins, Pioneer Battalion, Australia Forces (Queensland) youngest son of H.H. Perkins of the retreat married Miss Elsie Adelene Pither youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T.B. Pither of Broad Street. Her sister Daisy attended.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### WOKINGHAM CADETS

A well-attended meeting was held on Wednesday evening at the Town Hall, the Mayor in the chair, and was addressed by Major Vaughan-Williams, the County Commandant, and Major Porter, secretary of the Berks Territorial Association. It was resolved to raise a company at Wokingham and the Mayor, Major Dunne, Major de Vitre, Lieut. Brodie and Sergt.-Major Martin were elected a committee to organise the company and raise funds for its equipment, club and sports. It is hoped that the movement will be enthusiastically supported.

#### WOKINGHAM COLONEL HONOURED

Among those who attended at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday an investiture by H.M. the King, was Lieutenant-Colonel Hills Nicholson, son of the late Mr. A.J. and Mrs. Nicholson, of Chetwood, Wokingham. The gallant colonel was some time since notified of the award of the D.S.O. His military career is as follows: He received his commission in the Royal Fusiliers in August 1900, and served in the South African War, 1900-1902, for which he obtained the King's and Queen's Medal with two bars. He served subsequently two separate terms in India, and spent two years in Mauritius. At the beginning of the great war he was Adjutant of Volunteers in India. Ordered home he went to France in 1915, and thence, with his battalion to Salonika, where he remained for upwards of two years, after which, with his battalion, he again proceeded to France. For a time he was in command of a battalion of the East Surreys. Later he was transferred to the command of a battalion of his own regiment, the Royal Fusiliers. His qualities of organisation, decision and powers of leadership have won for him recognition in the form of a D.S.O. Lieutenant-colonel Nicholson is one of four brothers, all of whom have given their services and two, their lives, for their country's cause. The two latter are Lieut. Bruce Nicholson and Lieut. Victor Nicholson, R.N.

#### DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MR. D.N. HERON

We regret to record the death of Ex-Alderman Daniel Norton Heron, who passed peacefully away at his residence, 22, Market Place, Wokingham, early on Sunday morning, at the ripe age of 82 years. He leaves five daughters to mourn his loss. He was a native of Uxbridge, and purchased a wine and spirit business in Wokingham about 50 years ago, carrying it on until the last. By his death the town loses a resident whose interest in the welfare of the place of his adoption was most conspicuous; this has been amply proved by his long devotion to public work, dating back to the days before the town was granted a charter in 1885. In 1890 he was elected he was elected an alderman which position he held till 1915, and advancing years compelled him to retire from public life, but his interest remained till the end. Ex-Alderman Heron occupied the Mayor Chair with dignity and success in 1891, 1898, 1909, 1910 and his ripe experience has always been readily at the disposal of his successor.

In early days his fame as a vocalist always proved a draw at local concerts, at which the late Mrs. Heron played her husband's accompaniments. In later years he was occasionally prevailed upon to sing at private functions such delightful old ballads such as "Where are the friends of my youth," and "My Pretty Jane," the memories of

which will be long associated with his name. He was a prominent Freemason, being W.M. of the Greyfriars Lodge, which he joined in 1888, in successive years, 1900 and 1901. He was a founder and P.M of the Downshire Lodge, a founder of the Leopold Mark Lodge, a member of the Berkshire Masters' Lodge, and P.P.S.G.W. for the Province of Berks.

The deceased was a staunch Conservative and a member of the Wellington Club, Reading.

In him St. Paul's parish loses a good friend and active worker. He was a manager of the schools, and sidesman at the church, and for a long period had audited the accounts. On Sunday morning the Rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, spoke from the pulpit of the loss the church had sustained and paid a tribute to his sterling qualities and expressed sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

He was buried on Wednesday afternoon in St. Paul's Churchyard.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### THE EGG DEPOT

The Wokingham and district depot continues to send 30 dozen new-laid eggs every week. The total number of new-laid eggs sent from this depot since April, 1915, is 70,652. The need for eggs is very urgent. Gifts of eggs, also money to buy them, are gladly welcomed by Mrs. Dunne.

#### DEATH OF SERGT. NASH

Sergt. Nash, of Waterloo Road, is reported killed in action on September 14<sup>th</sup>. In a letter to the widow an officer writes: "I assure you I feel this loss in my platoon. He was loved and respected by all men under him, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> he had fought bravely, and principally through his efforts we were able to gain our objective. When we were about to enjoy a well-earned halt he fell in battle. I am confident it will comfort you to know your dear one died a noble death, fighting to the very last. On behalf of my company commander, and every man of our company, I assure you of our deep, heartfelt sympathy in this the hour of your trial and sorrow.

#### DEATH OF COL. NICHOLSON, D.S.O.

Deep regret is felt at the death of Lieut.-Colonel Hills Nicholson, who has been killed in action in France. The deceased officer was the eldest son of the late Mr. A.J. Nicholson and Mrs. Nicholson of Chetwood, and was one of four brothers who are serving or have served with the forces. Two of them—Captain Bruce Nicholson and Lieutenant Victor Nicholson—have also given their lives in the service of their country. Colonel Nicholson possesses a full record of military service receiving his commission in August, 1900, when he was attached to the Royal Fusiliers. He took part in the South African War and received the King's and Queen's Medals with five bars. He afterwards saw two separate terms of service in India, followed by two years in the Mauritius. He was adjutant to Volunteers in India at the outbreak of the present war, and was ordered home in 1915, proceeding at once to France. He was given the command of a battalion—the East Surreys and afterwards transferred to the command of a battalion of his old regiment—the Royal Fusiliers. The distinguished officer, who was home on leave a month ago, was presented by the King with the D.S.O., at Buckingham Palace, on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

CHURCH HOUSE, AUXILIARY HOSPITAL, WOKINGHAM

Regular gifts have been received during the past month from the following: Dairy produce, Mrs. Anderdon Weston, Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Mrs. Wescott,; vegetables, Marquis of Downshire, Mr. V. Allfrey, Mr. Craig, Mr. Howard Palmer, Captain J. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Mrs. Patheral, Mrs. Paley, Mrs. Leveson Gower; cakes, Miss Ellison; Mr. Mercer, Mr. Palmer.

While thanking the above mentioned most heartily for their very generous support, we wish also to express our thanks to the numerous other kind friends who have brought us gifts of jam, honey, cakes, fruit, etc. We are very grateful for their kind support, which has been the greatest help to us.—F. Mylne, Commandant, V.A.D., Berks, 28.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

The sale of work in the Town Hall on Wednesday and Thursday was a great success. There were many attractive stalls, including provision and household requisites (the Mayoress) soldiers' comforts and pin cushions (Mrs. Hammond), fancy and plain articles (Miss M. Ellison), glass and china (Mrs. Barry), "B" stall, bags, boxes, etc. (Miss Blandy), weighing machine and competitions (Miss A.K. Walker and Miss V. Robinson), bran pie (Grosvenor House School), recitations etc. (Miss Butler), ration tea (Miss Cooper). Mrs. Murdoch who was accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress declared the sale open.

During the afternoon goods were put up for auction by wounded soldiers, and made good prices. The admission receipts were even better than last year. The result was £215 6s. 8½, which exceeds the total of any former year.

#### WOKINGHAM AND THE ARMISTICE

The prolonged blast of the hooter at the Saw Mills intimated to the neighbourhood that the armistice had been signed. Flags appeared at windows immediately and soon the town was ablaze with bunting and streamers were hung across the streets. The trains as they passed kept up a ceaseless whistling, while from Reading and all round hooters and whistles could be heard. People crowded the streets, children and parents bearing flags and wearing the national colours.

The Mayor a little later announced the fact from the balcony of the Town Hall and the news was posted on the doors. The National Anthem was sung. Thanksgiving services were held in all the churches. Albeit a dull day with drizzling rain, the crowds filled the streets.

A body of Canadian convalescent soldiers with drums and bugles and flags marched to St. Paul's Church and joined in the thanksgiving services held there at four o'clock. Proceeding later into the town they were greeted with much enthusiasm, and the Mayor addressed them from the balcony of the Town Hall. He expressed appreciation of their bravery and assisting in winning the war, and satisfaction at its happy conclusion. Significant of the changed conditions was the fact that on Tuesday the Borough workmen were replacing the shaded street lanterns with the ordinary kind of clear glass.

French and Belgian residents were especially delighted, and throughout the day at the Convent, Easthampstead Road the "Marseillaise" was sung and cheering indulged in.

W T Martin appointed Deputy Mayor

The following were elected:

C. Sparkes Sgt at Mace

J Taylor Town Crier

Honorary Constables: A J Rodgers, E Jefferies, N W Turner and W H Wilson.

## 1919

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March

The Town Hall accepted the portrait of Alderman Wescott from his widow.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> April

At a meeting of the town council held on Thursday the General Purposes Committee reported the receipt of a communication from the authorities offering a German howitzer as a war trophy for the town.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> May

Mr Cathrow Martin has recently been admitted a Freeman of the City of London

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> May

The captured gun presented to the town arrived on Tuesday. It is a 120mm German howitzer and presents a very battered appearance. The gun was captured by the 12<sup>th</sup> Division on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and claimed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks. Regiment. Tithe Barn is the residence of Col. Leslie Wilson GMG DSO MP.

Sat 7th June

The Borough Surveyor reported that a 120 mm howitzer had been received from the War Department and was temporarily stored in the Town Hall yard. The question of the provision of a site was deferred for further consideration.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> July

### Armistice Celebrations

On Saturday, Wokingham duly celebrated the peace. The proceedings commenced at 7 a.m., when peals were rung on the church bells. At 10 a.m. the town band commenced to play in the Market Place. The officers and men who had been invited to send in their names and had received a card of invitation from the Mayor, assembled in Rectory Road and at 11.30 commenced a triumphal march through the principal streets of the town under command of Admiral J.B. Eustace, assisted by Colour-Sergeant H. Harvey, 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks. Retired, the only man who wore the old red volunteer uniform, and acted as chief marshal. Headed by the Wokingham Military Band the procession proceeded through Broad Street, which had been extensively decorated, the trees and lamp posts being bedecked with national colours, evergreens etc. A large wreath in the centre of the street, "Our bold and brave heroes, 1914-18," was saluted by the column.

A triumphal arch had been erected by the corporation from the London and County Bank to Mr. T.M. Welch's premises, bearing the words "We thank you." Rose Street was also very gaily hung with flags and streamers, with the motto "Welcome Home" suspended across the street. As the procession emerged from Rose Street against All Saints' Church the bells rung a peal of welcome. Marching up Peach Street, the

procession entered the Market Place through an arch similar to that in Broad Street, but bearing the words "Well done boys." The Church Lads' Brigade bugle band were in the centre of the procession and took turns with the military band in providing music.

The wounded and disabled who were accommodated in two wagons immediately behind the leading band everywhere most heartily greeted.

Upon a draped and coloured dais in the Market Place, facing Denmark Street stood the Mayor in his robes attended by the Town Clerk, the mace bearer (Sergeant Sparkes), the town crier (Mr. J. Taylor) and the four honorary constables. There were also upon the platform the Mayoress, the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. H. M. Walter, the Rev. A.P. Carr and Rev. J. Conolly, Aldermen Hughes and Sale. Councillors Hammond, Martin, Blake, Whaley, Priest, Brant, Bodle and Headington. Mr. C.W. Marks (surveyor), Colonel Walker, Mayor Hanbury O.B.E., Mrs. Murdoch, Mr and Mrs. W. Howard Palmer, Mrs. H. Walter, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. Hanbury, Miss Hanbury, Mrs. T.W. Heelas, Miss Sturges, Miss Gregorie, Mr. A Rasey and Mr. William Palmer.

The cadet band KRR sounded the Royal salute. The Mayor (Alderman Mylne) announced that he had received from H.M. the King, a message to all magistrates and lord lieutenants of counties. The National Anthem was then sung, led by the band, Mr. Yould conducting.

The Mayor then said, "Officers and men from the Navy, Army and the Air Force, it is my privilege as Mayor and speaking for all the people of Wokingham to bid you all welcome here today and to render to you our unstinted thanks for all you have done, all you have suffered and all you have gone through in these last few years. We rejoice that it is at last possible for us to meet so many of you after all the hardships you have gone through, since that day in which each one of you took his part in the magnificent response which you made to your country's call in its hour of need.

Some of you have been in the navy or army since the beginning of the war. Some of you were in that first army that went to Belgium—an army which I have heard has been called 'a contemptible little army': small it certainly was, but there is not a man in the world today, least of all in Germany, who would venture to call it contemptible.

Others of you who took part, leaving all in that mighty rush of men which changed the British Army from being reckoned in thousands to being reckoned in by millions. You, who have been through it, know what the sacrifices have been. You know even how thin a line, once and again, there was that there was all there was left to withstand the German onrush. You know, too, how indispensable it was that H M Navy should keep a ceaseless and sleepless watch throughout all the time.

What would our position have been today if that thin line had given way or that ceaseless watch failed for one hour? What sort of peace should we have had today? What would have been our condition? Some of you have been in France and Belgium and you know and can answer that question. But that ceaseless watch was maintained till the last hour and that this line never broke, and when today we are celebrating peace, it is that great and glorious victory, brought about in the providence of God through the valour of the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the British Empire. But in the midst of our rejoicings let us not forget the sacrifices that have been made. Let us not forget that there are some hearts in the Empire today because of those, who, to gain that victory and to win this peace laid down their lives and their names live for ever more. And when we have celebrated this peace today, which we hope will soon spread the world over, let us all stand united as we have done in those dreadful days of war in the last five years, and each in his own part, do whatsoever in him lies, to

promote the common good and to bring back with peace prosperity to our native land build up a greater, more honourable and a more powerful Britain than the world had ever known before so that the victories of peace will be no less worthy of celebration than the victories of war. And now we ask you to accept our hospitality and entertainment and we hope that for you and to all of us it may be a happy and a memorable day.” (applause).

“Land of Hope and Glory” was then sung, the sole being taken in unison by some 20 choirboys, the assembly led by the band joining in the chorus. Miss Edna Martin presented a lovely bouquet to the Mayoress. The Rev. B Long called for “three cheers for the boys,” which were heartily given also “three more for their wives.”

#### THE MEN ENTERTAINED.

*Headed by the town band the procession then marched via Denmark Street and Langborough Road, both well decorated, to Langborough Recreation Ground, near the entrance to which was a festoon of flags with the words “We thank you all who have saved our land.” A line of 16 tables had been prepared on the promenade under the trees across the ground and were very prettily decorated with flowers, etc. The Mayor’s table stood next the entrance, presided over by the Mayoress, assisted by Mrs. Hammond and Miss Powell. The remaining tables were in the charge of: Mesdames Martin and Bolton (plus many other names) and a large staff of helpers. The Wokingham Fire Brigade with their engine cooked the vegetables. The meal comprised cold meat, meat pies, salad, pickles, fruit tarts, jam tarts, jellies, cheese, etc. with beer and lemonade in abundance. Mr A T Heelas made the round of the tables with the usual military formula “any complaints,” and was received with cheers. Grace was said by the Rev. H M Walter. By the kindness of the Guardians and Mr and Mrs Cooper, the committee were relieved of the responsibility of cooking the whole of the meat provided at the luncheon. The fire brigade boiled the water, etc. in their engine.*

#### SPORTS AND GYMKHANA.

*A fine list of events for the sports programme took up the afternoon. The events and prize winners were as follows:*

Tent pegging on cycles  
Greasy pole  
Black and white tournament  
Wheelbarrow race  
Half-mile flat race for service or ex-service men.  
Slow bicycle race (ladies)  
Slow bicycle race (men)  
Bun and treacle race  
Threading the needle  
Three-legged race

(The list goes on)

#### THE TEA

*About a thousand wives of service and ex-servicemen, and the widows of the fallen, who numbered in Wokingham about 200, were entertained to tea at the luncheon table in a marquee. Both the sports and tea were very successful despite the rain which fell during the afternoon.*

The invitation card bore the white ensign and Union Jack, with laurel leaves in colours, and the word *Victory* in gold letters.

#### A GRAND CARNIVAL

The evening carnival was a great success

[illegible]

...The Food Control, the organisation of War Savings Associations and the establishment of War Relief Funds.

[illegible}]

(Address to the Mayor) The organisation of these many schemes was due mainly to your initiation, superintendence and encouragement without which they would not have attained that success which we gladly recognise was achieved.

The organisation of these many schemes was due mainly to your initiation, superintendence and encouragement without which they would not have attained that success which we gladly recognise was achieved.

When it is borne in mind that these multifarious demands on your time and personal engagements have been superimposed on the arduous duties of the mayoralty and your responsibilities as Justice of the Peace, we feel that it is only your due that some public recognition, some cordial and formal acknowledgement of your valuable and self-sacrificing services, should form a part of our rejoicing at this auspicious time, and in fulfilment of that obligation we beg to tender to you, on behalf of the inhabitants of the borough and parish of Wokingham, our thanks, in gratitude for all that you have done for the benefit and honour of the town and to offer for your acceptance this silver tray as a token of our esteem.

We also take this opportunity of asking the Mayoress to accept this silver cake basket as some recognition of our appreciation of her untiring efforts on behalf of the community.”

*The Mayor, who it could be seen, was deeply affected said the presentation came to him as a complete surprise. He felt he could say very little in return for all their kindness but for himself and the Mayoress he thanked them very much. The gifts are the outcome of a proposal which emanated from the council, to which residents were invited to subscribe and the secret has religiously been kept from the Mayor and Mayoress. The subscribers numbered about 200.*

The prizes were then distributed to the successful competitors a capital open-air concert, arranged by Mr. Yould following, this being kept up till midnight on an illuminated stage in the Market Place, and consisting of songs, dances, recitations, glees by the united choirs, etc. At the same time a very spirited company had assembled for the carnival ball in the Drill Hall. For such an occasion, however, even this commodious building was found far too small, and an overflow dance was quickly arranged in the Town Hall. A considerable number of houses were illuminated and midnight brought to a close a memorable day “never to be forgotten.”

The carnival prizes were then distributed for the following competitions:

Most effective motor car.

Trade car

Novelty on wheels

Decorated cycle

Men’s fancy costume

Ladies’ fancy costume

Grotesque costume

Decorated pram

Tableau car

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug

PRESENTATION



On Thursday evening in last week, at the Fire Brigade Station, Dr. T.B. Bokenham, for 17 years hon. surgeon to the Wokingham Fire Brigade, was presented by the members with a case of pipes on his leaving the town. Chief Officer Caiger introduced the object of the assembly. There were present: The Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, and Mr. A.T. Heelas. The Mayor spoke in terms of appreciation of Dr. Bokenham's work, and regretted the reason of his leaving the town, namely, the state of his health.

#### CHILDREN'S PEACE CELEBRATION DAY

The Peace celebrations for the children were attended with great success on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The children from the town and district assembled at their respective schools and marched to the Market Place with their flags and banners where they were received by the Mayor who was stationed on the platform in his robes accompanied by members of the town council, officials, and other leading residents of the town. With the Town Band accompanying, the National Anthem was sung and the Mayor, addressing the children, said:

“On the 11<sup>th</sup> November last year the Armistice was signed, following the most terrible war in history, and on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month Peace was signed—the event you are celebrating today. This is an event you should remember all your lives. You children are the men and women of the future race and what that race is to be must depend on you and other children. It is Goodwill that brings Peace in its train and that is what we should all strive for.”

Following three lusty cheers for the Mayor, called by the rector, the children sang very nice, “Land of Hope and Glory,” accompanied by the band, conducted by Mr. Yould. Marching via Denmark Street and Langborough Road to Langborough they presented a sight seldom seen in Wokingham. Sports of all kinds took place in the afternoon, and amusements, including Punch and Judy, roundabouts, joy wheel, etc., were well patronised. Tea had been arranged for half-past four to which 1,510 children sat down. Considerable enjoyment was given by members of the fire brigade and friends, dressed as clowns, who paraded the ground and held concerts. Although the weather looked very threatening at times it fortunately kept fine and the children spent a day they will never forget.

To make such arrangements and provide tea for so many at such short notice speaks well for the committee and their work, and great praise is due to one and all for all their efforts. A very attractive souvenir programme, with the whole of the celebration arrangements was on sale. Langborough has seldom held such crowds as those of Wednesday evening, and to the music of the Town Band hundreds of people indulged in dancing.

Numerous side shows proved a great attraction, and the children above all, will have good cause to remember Peace Celebration Day and the arrangements made for their enjoyment.

#### Peace Medals

*All the children have been presented with medals to commemorate the peace. Other children from three to five and those who have left school in 1919 are also to receive a medal. The medals are of large size and carry a figure of Peace, with dove above, and on either side a sailor and soldier, with ship and gun in background, “Victory and Peace” is the wording beneath. On the obverse is a laurel wreath. The medal is of a white metal.*

### Open-Air Concert

The peace celebrations concluded with a capital open-air concert in the Market Place on Thursday evening, July 23<sup>rd</sup> arranged by Mr. Cathrow Martin. Mr. R. Brant accompanied, and songs were given by Mr. Will Hives and Mr. Sid Callaghan, of Reading, and dances by Miss Edna Martin and her pupils. Others contributing to the programme were the Jazz Band, Mr. L. Falkman (violin, from the Vaudville, Reading), Mrs. Plumridge, Mrs. White, Messrs. G. H. Breach, H. G. Powell (some fine recitations), J. Wilson, D. Goddard, E. Brant (flute solo and banjo solo), G. W. Lay, W. S. Medcalf, J. Taylor and R. Turner. The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and Mr. A. T. Heelas were present during the evening, and the collection realised £10.

### Peace Masquerade Ball

A capital masquerade ball was held on Thursday in last week in the Drill Hall. Music was supplied by Miss M. Webb (piano), Mr. Hale (violin) and Mr. C. Ayers (bass). Admiral Eustace and Mr. A. T. Heelas acted as judges. There was a very fine parade of fancy dress dancers.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept

Notification has just been received from the military authorities by Mr & Mrs Treacher of The Lodge, Embrook House, late of Keep Hatch, Wokingham that their son, the late Driver Frank Treacher, R.F.A. who died a prisoner of war is buried in the prisoner of war cemetery at [RAGHTCHE?], Asia Minor 20 miles NN.W. of Aleppo.

Sat 15th Nov

C Sparkes was re-elected Sgt at Mace.

Sat 6th Dec

The late Alderman Heron's wine and spirit business of 40 years has been re-opened after extensive alterations as Heron's Wine Vaults by Messrs Fergusons Ltd of Reading.

Sat 13th Dec

Mr A T Heelas has been elected a foundation manager of St. Paul's Schools in place of Dr Bokenham.

## 1920

Sat 7th Feb

### MEMORIAL TABLET IN WESLEYAN CHURCH (ISAIAH GADD)

On Sunday afternoon, at a service presided over by the Rev. C.E. Swansborough, of Reading. Mr. H.H. Perkins unveiled a memorial tablet to the late Mr. Isaiah Gadd. Both he and the chairman eulogised the devoted services rendered by the deceased to Methodism. The inscription reads thus: "In memory of Isaiah Gadd, died November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1913 aged 73, aged 71. One of the original trustees of the church, and for 53 years Superintendent of the Sunday school. He held most of the church offices open to laymen, and was generously concerned in the welfare of aged ministers. Also of Mary Isabella, wife of the above, died January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1890, aged 41, organist of this church from the age of 13 until her death. Erected by their loving daughter".

### EMBROOK CRICKET CLUB

A whist drive was held in the Embrook Mission Room on Wednesday last week. At the conclusion Mrs. F.G. Harman presented the prizes as follows: Ladies: 1, Mrs. W. Wilson; 2, Miss E. Garrett; 3, Mrs. Callimore. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Day; 2, Mr. F.E. Street; 3, Mr. Stanley. Mystery prize for lady sitting at one table the longest time: Miss Jeffery.

Mr. F. Bowyer kindly gave a prize for a guessing competition: this was won by Miss H. Knapp, after cutting with Mr. Paine. The proceeds of the drive were given to the Embrook Cricket Club, now restarting.

#### NONCONFORMIST BURIAL GROUND

On Monday evening a meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Rose Street, to receive the reports of various committee meetings with regard to a Nonconformist burial ground for Wokingham.

Alderman P. Sale presided. There were also present the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn (Reading), Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Mead and Mr. W. S. Medcalf.

The chairman spoke of the need for a Nonconformist burial ground which they did not at present possess, the only one being that attached to the Baptist Chapel, and that was now full. Of course Nonconformists could be buried at the ground of the Established Church, but they felt it needful to possess a ground of their own. The matter had been brought to a point by Mr. Mead. A plot of ground had been found at an ideal spot near Skew Bridge in the Borough of Wokingham. They had contracted for it, and now wanted to raise £450 to pay for it, and they must all make an effort to do this. Mr. Sale then called upon the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn, whom he looked upon as "the Bishop of Nonconformists."

The Rev. R.G. Fairbairn remarked that all were united in a common danger. The Church never had as many enemies as at present. One of the reasons for a burial ground of their own was that all could be buried side by side without distinction of class or creed. God smiled at "consecrated" or "unconsecrated" ground; all ground that He had made was sacred. They desired the consecration of God and no other. They had gathered together to make an inspiration for the men and women of tomorrow, so that they could lie where their children could see that they were not ashamed of the religion they had followed.

The chairman said where their dead lay all felt to be something sacred. It was much nicer to have a burial ground of their own and not the worst part of a public cemetery. The piece of ground they were acquiring ran from Reading Road to Oxford Road. It was proposed to lay out the upper portion for immediate use and let the lower part for pasture land and extend when required. Trustees would be required, say 12—three Wesleyan, three Baptist and six other residents. A deposit had been paid, and the balance would be required by March 25<sup>th</sup> 1920. Over £100 had been promised. The price included the timber, and the plot was nearly five acres.

Sat 28th Feb

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE

By way of a surprise return for his hospitality of a few weeks since, the Wokingham Fire Brigade invited their C.O., Mr. F. Caiger, and his family to a social in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The friends of the members were also present, and the party numbered about 50.

Splendid lantern views shown by Engineer F. Knight and explained by Lieut. Goswell illustrated the work of the brigade at various fires since 1877. These were from photos taken by members. A whist drive filled a portion of the time, prizes being

won as under:-Gentlemen:1. Mr. C. Martin; 2. Mr. F. Dearlove; mystery, Mr. G. Cope. Ladies: 1. Mr. D. Herring (who played as a lady); 2. Mrs. Sugden: mystery, Mrs. Hawkins. Refreshments were provided.

The C.O., thanking his men for their hospitality, said he was proud to be here, but still prouder was he to take them to Reading.

#### WOKINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

After a lapse of five years this old-established institution is being revived during the coming season. The cricket field is receiving attention and a capital list of fixtures has been arranged.

Sat 8th May

Duke of Connaught's daughter died.

Sat 6th Nov

The General Purposes Committee recommended that the shell presented to the War Savings Committee be placed in the corridor of the town hall, Alderman Hughes having kindly offered to supply a base.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### PRESENTATION TO SUPT. GODDARD

Col. Poulton and the Special Constables

On Wednesday evening a special parade of the special constables of the Wokingham Sub-Division Berks police, Special reserves, was held at the Wokingham Drill Hall, for the purpose of the presentation of medals and certificates to the men, and also a presentation to Superintendent Goddard.

The men were under the command of Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, and also present were: the Chief Constable of Berkshire (Lieut.-Colonel A.F. Poulton), Colonel F.C. Ricardo (Commandant Berks Police Special Reserve), Vice-Admiral J.B. Eustace (Wokingham Divisional Officer), the Marquis of Downshire, Major Barnes (late Commandant), the Rev. B. Long, Mr. F.N.A. Garry, Mr. W.T. Martin, Supt. Goddard and Inspector Haddrell. There were 76 men on parade. Altogether there were 41 medal ribbons and 95 certificates for presentation.

The Chief Constable said he wished to express to them, as he had done before, but he never could do enough, his great gratitude for all the help they gave him during the Great War. He would never forget it, but would always be proud to be Chief Constable of such a county, where he had had such wonderful response. He remembered when he had started the movement that in less than a month he had 4,000 names. That was a record of which anyone might be proud. After referring to the usefulness of a police training to those who later joined the army, the Chief Constable said that having got a good thing, he wanted to keep it. He had something like 2,000 men now in the county, and he particularly wanted to ask all young men who had been in the army and had come back to rejoin that excellent movement. We lived in funny times. He was no pessimist, but we did live in disturbed times. We could not look across to Ireland without being shocked at what was happening there. They did not mind fighting in the open, but when people were shot down from behind hedges that was not good enough. We had, unfortunately, unrest in this country and he was not out, as a policeman, to make any quarrels. That was not their business. Their business was the preservation of the peace and the protection of life and property, and those were the two things he asked them most seriously to consider. They were all

very proud of the county and glad that they had no serious crimes. He was very anxious to keep the county quiet. They had a small force and they did not want to increase it. As they did not want more trouble and expense. He would only call them out in case of necessity and only in their own locality. He knew them all as personal friends and he knew they would help him. He was very proud indeed that they could get people like General Sir Walter Cayley to interest themselves in that movement. He had served an honoured career in the Army and was now helping them with that work. For that he was most grateful. It only showed that they had a real good movement.

After personally decorating Admiral Eustace, Mr. Garry, the Marquis of Downshire (who also received the ribbon of his father, the late Marquis) and the Mayor (Alderman P. Sale), the Chief Constable deputed Admiral Eustace to distribute the ribbons, after which the certificates were handed out by Colonel Poulton.

Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, on behalf of the special constables, thanked the Chief Constable for distributing the ribbons and certificates.

The Chief Constable said he did not want any thanks; he was proud to see the success of the movement.

Mr. F.N.A. Garry, in making the presentation to Supt. Goddard, said he had helped them in all manners and put them right when going astray. As a fitting tribute to the way in which he carried out his work, the special constables had subscribed to give him an arm-chair and an illuminated address. He was Supt. Goddard who had taught and drilled them and had set a splendid example to them all.

Mr. Garry then unveiled the illuminated address, which was covered with the Union Jack and read as follows:- "Presented with the accompanying easy-chair to Supt. Goddard, by the officers and men of the Wokingham Sub-Division Special Police Reserve, as a mark of esteem and appreciation of his courtesy during our work together in the Great War, 1914-1919."

Supt. Goddard thanked them for the presentation, and said that if he lived to retire he hoped to enjoy the easy chair, but they did not at the present time keep a superintendent to sit in a chair. (Laughter.) It seemed rather contrary that they should reward him; he should really have rewarded them for the splendid way in which they had done their duty. Supt. Goddard also referred to the excellent work done by Admiral Eustace and Major Barnes. All the leaders had been splendid.

## 1921

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan

### SCHOOL CLOSED

In consequence of an epidemic of measles, attended in some cases with pneumonia, the mixed and infants departments of St. Paul's Schools remain closed until Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### HOCKEY

The Wokingham Hockey Club visited Aldershot on Saturday to play a match with the army school of physical training. The game resulted in a very decisive win for Wokingham by 11 to one. Goals were scored by the visitors by the Rev. F.M.C. Hare (centre forward), who netted no less than eight; A.E. Allnatt (centre half), two; and W.

Denton (outside right), one. It was a better game than the score suggests. For the first time this season, S.E. Sale appeared for Wokingham, and it is hoped he will soon be quite fit again after his long illness.

## ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC OPENED AT WOKINGHAM

### A Work which should be Supported

Of the discoveries and advances of science for which the recent war was responsible, none is more remarkable than the tremendous and wonderful advances in the surgeon's art. To say that the war actually did a considerable amount of real good might seem strange but such is the case where surgery is concerned. The experience gained by the cleverest of the country's surgeons whilst in the Army Medical Services has been of a most important and far-reaching kind. Today, when the war is over, this wonderful experience and new treatments discovered during the past five years are being communicated to the country, and already many are benefiting by these wonderful new methods.

It is not so well-known as it might be that in Wokingham recently. An orthopaedic clinic has been set up, so that there the knowledge and skill gained by the war experiences is at the service of the deformed. Almost three months ago this great work was started by a committee formed from the Red Cross Society, with Lady Caley as secretary and Admiral Eustace as treasurer. The committee have the voluntary services of Captain G.R. Girdlestone, in charge of the Headington Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford, and also the voluntary services of nurses and an after-care sister, trained at Headington. Here is no charge for the services and treatment given.

The object, of course, of the clinic is to carry out the long and tedious treatment necessary in cases of deformity, and also to prevent further deformities. The war experience of surgeons now shows that it is quite possible to cure children suffering from various deformities such as lameness, crooked back and cases of infantile paralysis. As is pointed out by Dr. Ernest Ward, a member of the committee of the Wokingham clinic, a large number of the deformities at present seen in children could have been prevented had not the parents wearied of the expense and time taken in visits to the hospital and also the discouragement at the very slow process of the cure. Now, however, the parents need have no such worries and discouragements, for the treatment is brought to the door of the patient, and if proper attention is given, the rate of progress will, no doubt, as it has already done in some cases, prove astounding. Great results are confidently expected, and already remarkable progress has been made. It is expected that in time the presence of a crippled child will be considered a disgrace to the town.

The clinic have several interesting cases in hand. A boy is being treated for a useless (up to now) arm. This limb used to hang in a bent position by his side, the fingers hanging down uncontrolled. Indeed, the child could not use the arm at all. Treatment has been applied with success, and now the boy is able to slightly bend his arm backwards and forwards, an act of which he was utterly incapable before. By continual treatment the muscles will be built up again and he will again be able to use that arm as freely as the other. After that has been achieved, attention will be directed to the fingers, which also, it is hoped to put right again, so that the child will regain complete control of arm and hand.

All the doctors in the town can bring their own patients. Captain Girdlestone attends the Town Hall once a month, but Dr. Ward and his able assistants are there every Saturday. Dr. C.J. Nicholson attends to the X-rays, and members of the V.A.D. also assist. An after-care sister also visits the patients at home. Nurse Hessey and Nurse

Neve (the district nurse) are giving their services, and three other ladies, Miss Robinson, Miss Gambler Parry and Miss A.T. Scott are assisting as masseuses.

A great deal of expense is entailed in this great work, but no one will deny that it is a needy cause and one which deserves wholehearted support. At present there are funds to carry on for the immediate future, but the surgical instruments are so costly that more money is required to enable the work to be carried on and even extended. An appeal is, therefore, made to the residents of Wokingham to assist such a laudible object, in which we feel sure they will not be found wanting.

Saturday Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

The trustees for the Nonconformist burial ground have been appointed by the Mayor.

Saturday Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

An inscription has been fitted to the shell presented to the War Savings Committee. The timber for the stand that was provided by Alderman Hughes came from an 800-year-old elm tree.

Saturday Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

#### FREE CHURCH BURIAL GROUND

The new Free Church burial ground, Reading Road, Wokingham, was dedicated in the presence of a large congregation on Wednesday afternoon. The short service was conducted by the Rev. T.N. Philips (superintendent minister of the Reading Wesleyan Circuit), and the Rev. C. Colin Dawson (Baptist minister).

(details of service)

Tea was provided in the Town Hall, the Mayor (Ald. P. Sale) presided.

The Mayor said they had felt that this was a bit of work that needed doing and they had set to work and they had worked in harmony and worked successfully, (hear, hear). Many had worked to bring about that result but he thought the first plot should be given to Mr. Mead, (applause). Mr C.W. Marks had placed his professional skill at their disposal. Mr. Medcalf had been treasurer and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton had drawn up the trust deed, free gratis and for nothing. (applause).

Amongst a host of others he could mention, Messrs. Lush, Welch, Hopkins, Bennett, Prouton, Misses Kedge, Jeffries and Tucker, and also the assistance received that day from the Rev. R.G. Fairbairn and the Rev. T.N. Phillipson

A vote of thanks to the ladies who prepared and served tea was passed on [illegible] motion of Mr. W.P. Tucker

The Mayor said that it was desired to sell the frontage to Oxford Road for building [illegible].

The deed was then signed, the trustees being: the Mayor and Messrs. A.J Bennett, T.H. Bennett, H.E. Bennett, Cooper, S. Brant, Sidney Brown, F.F. Burl[illegible], George Ford, John Hopkins, F.E. Hall, W.G. Jeffries, W. Mead, C.W. Marks, W.S. Medcalf, A. Prouten, .W.R. Tucker and T.M. Welch.

The plot of ground is over three acres in extent and is situated between the Reading and Oxford Roads.

Sat 9th April

C B Middleton & Co. has taken over the mill of Mr. F. C. Heelas and established a knitting factory. The factory began on Tuesday. There are handknitting machines and a large winder operated by water turbine.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May

## EMPIRE DAY AT WOKINGHAM

### Mayor Inspects Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

Empire Day was celebrated at the schools of Wokingham on Tuesday, and also in the evening the local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides combined in a special parade and were inspected by the Mayor of Wokingham. The children at the Palmer School joined in a special ceremony which was both impressive and picturesque. At the other schools Empire Day was celebrated as usual.

#### At The Palmer School

In the playground of the Palmer School, and with a picturesque background, the children were formed into a square on Tuesday morning and a guard of honour, composed of the school Cadet Corps with their band, was present in uniform. Amongst the large number of spectators present were Commander Gregorie R.N., Mr. C. Gregorie, Mr. H. Farrington Evans, the Rector (the Rev. B. Long), Mrs. Long, Dr. Ward, Miss Piggott, Miss E.M. Sturges, Miss Blandy, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mrs. J.B. Eustace, Mr. F.W. Finch, Mr. C.L.C. Locke and Councillor F.J. Barratt.

The proceedings were opened by prayers offered by the Rector after which the children sang "The Children's Song (Rudyard Kipling). Mr. Barratt gave an address and said how proud he was to come back to his old school and he thanked them for the honour of giving that address. He referred to the war, and that ready response of men in distant parts of the Empire to come to fight in a war which, as they thought, was to end war. Referring to his own schooldays, Mr. Barratt said he had had a lack of appreciation at that time, and he hoped that the children present at that school with such excellent teachers, would more readily realise that they were having the best time of their lives. Concluding, the speaker, in a happy manner, emphasised the truth of the motto that, "What was worth doing was worth doing well."

The children sang "There's a Land," (Allitsen), after which the flag was hoisted and the salute given. Three cheers were given for the King, and the National Anthem was sung. The ceremony concluded with the march-past and salute. The proceedings were very picturesque, the playground being gaily decorated with flags of various nations.

#### PARADE AND INSPECTION

The local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides paraded in Rectory Road and proceeded to the Recreation Ground, where they were drawn up for inspection by the Mayor (Ald. P. Sale). The following were on parade: The Band of the Wokingham Lone Scouts under Patrol Leader Grove; the remainder of the Lone scouts under Scout Cooney; the Wokingham Wolf Cubs under Scout Culver; the Wokingham Brownies under Brown-Owl Miss Smith, Lieut. Miss Finch, and Patrol Leader Powsford; No. 3 Wokingham Company Girl Guides under Capt. Mrs. Welch and Lieut. Miss Harris; and No. 4 Company under Capt. Miss Spiers and Lieut. Miss Evans. The whole parade was commanded by Troop Leader H.A. Byard.

The parade was inspected by the Mayor in the presence of a large company and Ald. Sale also gave an address. He expressed his pleasure to see such a business-like appearance and said he liked to see boys and girls voluntarily put themselves under discipline, because the first thing they had to learn was to obey. If they did not learn to obey they would never command properly. He liked the movement of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, because they aimed at doing something really useful, and not only useful to themselves but to other people. The Boy Scouts aimed at doing one good action every day. He hoped they did a good many more than that but he hoped they did one at any rate, because as they did that they benefited themselves as well as other people. After all, the great thing to be proud of in being citizens of this great country was in the character they were building up. We might have the biggest army in the world and



the most powerful navy (and, he was going to say, the most money, but we had not got that now), but if we had not got the character which had made the name of Great Britain respected all over the world, we were going to leave our country much poorer than it had ever been before. One of the finest things ever said about this country was that an Englishman's word was his bond. If they gave their word they must keep it, no matter whether it was profitable or unprofitable to them, whether they gained or lost by it. That was one of the things that made the name of this country respected throughout the world. As long as our national character stood high—and after all our national character depended on those young people—we need not mind, although we had not so much money. Money was one of the last of the things to be considered. He was sure he wished them every success and hoped that next year would see a great many more Boy Scouts than were there that day. He thought their scoutmaster had too much to do and not enough people to help him. He hoped some of the young men would come forward and help him and some friends would be found to find anything they needed. He urged them to attend their weekly meetings regularly, to do their drills smartly and not to forget that one good deed a day.

The "General Salute" was given, followed by three cheers for the King, one for the Queen, and three for the Mayor of Wokingham.

The parade marched back to the Market Place and was dismissed.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June

#### BAND DANCE

The town Band held a successful open-air dance on Wednesday at "Highfield," Milton Road, by kind permission of Commander Gregorie, R.N. in aid of the band funds.

#### BAND AT RECTORY

By the kindness of the Rev. B. Long, the rector, the Wokingham Military Band, under Mr. E. Farrar played for dancing in the grounds of All Saints' Rectory on Monday evening.

#### A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT

A singular accident occurred at Wokingham on Monday, when two horses attached to a large van bolted and one fell down the area at the front of a house in Marsham Place.

The horses were drawing a large pantehnicon, loaded with furniture, belonging to Messrs. E.W. Reeves and Co., of Wokingham, and were driven by George Bishop of 53, Peach Street, Wokingham. When about to turn into Carey Road the near side horse suddenly jumped, getting one leg over the centre-pole. Both horses at once became restless and the driver and another employee named Cairns tried to release the near horse. The second animal then swerved round and bolted with the van down the hill. Jumping the railings in front of one of the houses and breaking the harness the horse fell down into a deep and narrow area where it became firmly lodged. Cairns hung on to the horse trying to release it until it jumped the railings and he was almost dragged over himself. Police assistance was sent for and a veterinary surgeon was also summoned. A set of ropes and pulleys was obtained and was fixed to the upper window of the house. By this means the animal was hauled bodily out of the area and then deposited on the road where it lay exhausted. Great difficulty was experienced in hauling it up as the horse kicked and struggled and damaged the front of the house. None of the three windows of the house, however, were broken. After a time the horse recovered and was taken to its stable, apparently little the worse for its fall.

### 'BUS RUNS INTO COWSHED

An accident occurred at the foot of Buckhurst Hill, London Road, Wokingham, on Friday last week, when one of the Thames Valley Company's 'buses plying between Reading and Sunningdale ran off the road into a cow-shed in a meadow.

About 5.45 p.m., Arthur Gregory, of 54, Highgrove Street, Reading, was driving the 'bus from Sunningdale back to Reading, and on reaching the foot of the hill felt a bump. The steering gear was knocked out of his hands, and the 'bus swerved across the path, went through the hedge, and ran into the side of a cow-shed in a meadow belonging to Mr. Alfred Lane. The side of the shed was demolished, and the occupants of the 'bus received a shaking, but no one was injured. It appears that when the driver felt the shock a car driven by Mr. T. Baldwin, of The Vine Hotel, Reading, collided with the 'bus. The driver of the latter said he heard no warning signal of anyone wanting to pass him.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July

### WOKINGHAM ALL SAINTS' WAR MEMORIAL

The war memorial erected to commemorate the services of the men of All Saints' Parish, Wokingham, who fell in the Great War, was unveiled and dedicated on Monday evening with impressive ceremony and in the presence of a very large concourse of the townspeople. The service was noteworthy from its being representative of practically every section of the townspeople and the assembly of all the public bodies and religious denominations. The weather favoured the function and in the triangle of the junction of London Road and Peach Street a very large crowd assembled and witnessed the unveiling by Major-General Sir Reginald Stephens, K.C.B., C.M.G., the Commandant of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and the dedication by the Bishop of Oxford.

The service on Monday evening was in two portions—inside the church and at the cross. The church was completely filled. A procession was formed at the Town Hall, headed by the Wokingham Town Band, and consisting of police and Special Constables, under Supt. Goddard, and the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Captain Caiger. The Voluntary Aid Detachment also paraded, and marched to the church under Lady Cayley and Miss C.F. Johnson R.R.C. (sister-in-charge of the Church House Hospital during the war). The service was also attended by his Worship the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman P. Sale, J.P., C.C.). preceded by the four honorary constables and the mace-bearer (Sergt. Sparkes) and other members of the Corporation and dignitaries

A description of the service is given followed by the list of names on the memorial.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July

### FIRE BRIGADE

The fire brigade on Tuesday evening entertained four of their confreres from the Hungerford Brigade, who were visiting the town en route to London on brigade business.

### CHOIR EXCURSION

A very pleasant time was spent on Thursday last week by members St. Paul's choir, who, by the generosity of numerous subscribers and the proceeds of a recent concert, were enabled to take a charabanc trip to Southsea, Portsmouth Harbour, etc. The party were conveyed in two charabancs. The party included the rector (the Rev. H.M.

Walter), the Rev. C. Nightingale and Mr. A.H. Lusty (organist), while in the second vehicle a number of friends travelled as ordinary passengers. The journeys, through lovely scenery, were much enjoyed. A visit was paid to Nelson's old flagship, "The Victory," observations made on the spot entirely belying the report that she is becoming derelict. The choirboys were entertained to tea.

#### WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL JOINT SCHEME ADOPTED

On Tuesday evening a further meeting was held in the Town Hall to consider the report of the committee appointed by the last public meeting held to consider the question of a town war memorial. The Mayor occupied the chair and informed the meeting that the committee had chosen two schemes for final consideration, the clinic and the Comrades' Club.

On behalf of the Comrades, now the British Legion, Major-Gen. Sir Walter Calley said both projects would be welcomed. Their aims were not selfish. The club would be a social centre for the whole of Wokingham, and would lead in every kind of entertainment and sports. They now numbered some 250 ex-service men in Wokingham. Replying to questions by Dr. Ward and Mr. F. Powell, Sir Walter said the British Legion included a women's auxiliary with the same service qualification as the men, and that the club would provide a bar. The Legion already had acquired premises, but only sufficient for the bare necessities of the club. They wanted a hall on the present premises which would enable them to carry on their scheme in its entirety. The club would welcome those not eligible by service as honorary members, and they would include all the surrounding villages as well as the town.

Dr. Ward referred to women's work in the war, and said they of the clinic would be pleased for the two things, the club and the clinic to be combined. The possibilities of the clinic were great; maternity and child welfare could be added had they but a suitable building. They were taking over the only available building, and it would cost a great deal, and there was the expertise of carrying on the work, as many people required special treatment. If the money were divided between the two funds they could not have a more worthy memorial.

Mr. Barnaby remarked that future ex-service men could join the club, as well as the British Legion, and so provide for the future carrying on of the club.

After prolonged discussion it was proposed and seconded by Supt. Goddard and Mr. Barnaby respectively that the report of the committee be accepted. This was carried, and then on the proposition of Supt. Goddard, the dual scheme for club and clinic was adopted by a large majority.

The Mayor was thanked for presiding. The details of the scheme were left to the committee previously appointed.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### RAIN

On Tuesday, about midnight, rain commenced to fall in considerable volume, and this continued well into Wednesday. Pastures and gardens already show improvement, while the quantity that fell was sufficient to fill the hollows in road and field with water.

#### WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL AN APPEAL BY THE MAYOR

This week the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman P. Sale) has issued an appeal for support of the Wokingham Town War Memorial, which, it is gratifying to note, has already met with success.

The scheme is for a town memorial, as apart from the various church and chapel memorials, is the outcome of a town's meeting called by his Worship some little time ago. At that meeting a committee was appointed to deal with the suggestions for a war memorial and to recommend the most suitable for approval. Many were the suggestions put forward, and eventually the committee, who had a great difficulty in binding itself to one suggestion (so great were the merits of several), came to a decision to support the suggestion both for helping the clinic and also the one for assisting the ex-service men in acquiring a Comrades' Club. Since then, however, Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, on behalf of the British Legion, informed the Mayor that it was not thought right to accept the help of the town in such a project, and that, therefore, the ex-Servicemen desired to withdraw from the scheme in favour of the clinic. After that decision the committee proceeded to formulate a scheme for the one object, that of assisting the clinic.

Premises have been found in the disused chapel in Denmark Street, and this building the committee propose to purchase and equip for the work of a clinic. The building is admirably suited for such a purpose, and it is not expected that, after purchase, any money (or, at any rate, very much) will have to be spent on alterations. It is a most favourable place. It is suggested a stone tablet be placed outside on the front of the building, to the effect that it was purchased and handed over as the town's war memorial, and, also that bronze tablets, suitably inscribed, and containing names of all who died in the Great War, be erected on the wall of the Town Hall at the side of the Town Clerk's chambers.

The object is a most worthy one, and needs no recommendation. The wonderful work accomplished by Captain Girdlestone of Oxford, is known not only in Wokingham, but in all the surrounding villages. From a small start with cases in Wokingham the work has developed until now 50 cases from various parts of the district are dealt with each Saturday. It is interesting to note that the town memorial is to be to assist in the work which is now being carried out as the result of experience and knowledge gained in the war. The skill to which the surgeons attained during the war was remarkable and it is this skill and experience which is the means of affecting the remarkable cures and treatments of Captain Girdlestone. It is, therefore, a point of next appeal, and the whole object and scheme most worthy.

The Mayor's appeal has already produced several handsome donations, but £2,000 is expected to be necessary, and, the Mayor (final two sentences partly illegible).

Sat 12th Nov

Councillor Blake was appointed Mayor with Alderman Sale as Deputy Mayor.

Also elected were:

Sgt. C. Sparkes as Sergeant-at-Mace

E Jeffries, W Pearce, A Jarvis and H Dyer as Honorary Constables.

James Taylor as Town Crier.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION

The Unemployment Committee of the Town Council arranged a meeting at the Town Hall on Friday last week to consider the possibilities in respect of emigration to Australia.

The chair was taken by the Mayor (Alderman Blake) who was supported by the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Sale) and Councillors Cheeseman, Sturges and Ward.

The Mayor, after referring to what had been done in Wokingham for unemployment, stated that the meeting had been called to give prospective emigrants to Australia an opportunity of having the true conditions put before them by Mr. Barnes, the industrial advisor to the Commonwealth of Australia, an ex-Minister of the Australian Assembly.

Mr. Barnes stated that he was due that evening to speak to a large meeting of 5,000 at Chelsea, but at the last moment had been urged to come to Wokingham, the only corporation in England that had invited a representative of the Commonwealth to address a meeting in their town on the question of emigration. Mr. Barnes dealt with the life and openings in Australia particularly from the point of view of agricultural workers and the advantages emigrants were likely to reap if they went out determined to live a thrifty life until they were well started on their career. He emphasised strongly the fact that Australia only wanted workers, and anyone emigrating to Australia must be prepared to work, and to work hard. Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> applications can be received for an assisted passage to Australia. The British Government will pay the passages of accepted emigrants and on their arrival in Australia they would go straight to their jobs. No special clothes were required; any clothes they might have by them were sufficient. The money required was a sum of £3 which had to be deposited in England and was handed to the emigrant when he landed.

Many questions were put to Mr. Barnes by intending emigrants and others, which he answered fully, and it was not difficult to see that he made a considerable impression on his hearers.

Councillor Barrett proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Barnes, which was seconded by the Mayor and on being put was carried with much applause.

Mr. Barnes in reply stated that if any boy from Wokingham were near his residence in Australia he should be pleased to see him, and he would do what he could to give him any assistance locally.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Mayor on the proposition of the lecturer.

## 1922

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

### THE UNEMPLOYED

The streets of Wokingham on Tuesday resounded to the unusual strains of "The Red Flag," while a red banner, followed by a drum and bugle band, was borne aloft. The occasion was a visit of the Reading unemployed to give the local men a lead in the parade to the Board Room of the Guardians and District Council, to whom the local men wished to send a deputation. The visitors marched from Reading. An escort of local police received the column at the boundary, and escorted it thither again in the afternoon. The Board of Guardians received a deputation, as reported elsewhere.

### ST PAUL'S WAR MEMORIAL

The unveiling and dedication of the war memorial tablet at St. Paul's Church, in honour of the men of that parish who fell in the Great War, was impressively carried out on Sunday afternoon. There was a very large congregation, among whom were the

Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman M. Blake) and many relatives of the men commemorated. The Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter) officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. Nightingale. The service commenced with the hymn "O God our help in ages past." Mr. A. H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., was at the organ. Psalm xxiii was chanted, and the lesson St. John v. 21-25, was read. The Archdeacon of Berks, with the clergy and choir then proceeded to the memorial tablet at the west-end of the church. The unveiling was performed by Lieut.-Colonel C.H. Villiers, L.D. (H.M. Bodyguard, late Royal Horse Guards), who released the Union Jack with which the tablet had been draped.

Colonel Villiers said he felt it a very great honour to be asked to unveil that memorial. He did so with great sympathy for the relatives of the men who were commemorated. He should never forget when in 1914 he received orders to march with his regiment the first night out of London, they slept in a field at Bear Wood, within sight of the church wherein they were now assembled; a regiment of young Englishmen drawn from every station in life, full of hope and eagerness to see service for their country. Many of them became officers, many of them laid down their lives for their country. None remained behind, and they were all of the same type as those Wokingham lads whose memory they and their children would honour for all time. The task undertaken by these young men could never be ended as long as the British Empire endured. It was for them and their children to maintain the greatness of their dear country, with its love of justice, freedom and law. There could be no doubt that if the necessity again rose, and the call was made upon the manhood of the country, the young men of St. Paul's Parish would again come forward.

The Ven. Archdeacon of Berkshire then dedicated the memorial, and prayers were said.

Mrs. Potter, who of six sons in the war, lost three then laid a laurel wreath beneath the tablet. Another wreath was placed by Miss Finer in memory of "Six lads of my Bible Class," and Mrs. Stokes placed a sheaf of lilies in memory of her son.

The Archdeacon then delivered a thoughtful, sympathetic and earnest address from the words, "Their name liveth for evermore" and "They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

The hymn "Jesus Lives" was followed by the Benediction and a verse of the National Anthem. "Onward, Christian Soldiers," was sung as a recessional, after which Mr. Lusty played, "King of Glory" (Barnby)

The memorial is an alabaster tablet, framed in green marble, 4ft. 6 in. by 2ft. 8 in. In gilt letters on a surmounting are rising from the top edge are the words "To the Glory of God," and a white cross is enclosed. Sixty-one names are inscribed on the tablet, and underneath the two columns of names are the words "In mahus tuas Domine???"

Public subscriptions of parishioners and friends raised £160. A thank offering taken at the door on leaving was placed to the credit of the organ restoration fund, which still required some £40.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April

#### SUMMER TIME

The usual number of humerous incidents owing to neglecting the alteration of the time were observed on Sunday morning.

#### UNIVERSITIES' MISSION

Canon Coleridge (Vicar of Crowthorne) presided over a well-attended meeting held under the auspices of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa at the Church House

on Wednesday. An interesting and informative address on the work of the mission was given by Miss Abdy, and at the close a sale of African curios was promoted.

#### WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

On Wednesday a fairly large number of members of the Wokingham Club participated in the fortnightly whist drive and dance. The successful card players were—Ladies: 1. Mrs Bennett 2. Mrs. Carter. Gentlemen: 1. Mr. Tillier 2 Mr. F. F. Finch. Mr. C.W. Law officiated as M.C. for the whist, and Mr. H. Drinkwater for the dancing which followed.

#### SANGER'S CIRCUS

The visit of Sanger's celebrated Circus on Saturday roused the juvenile population to a great pitch of excitement, and the two excellent performances given were very well attended, the evening house being crowded. The aerobatic performers and the horses, seals and elephants were worthy of the highest praise. The arrival and departure were witnessed by crowds of children who were much interested in the elephants, which wore large rubber "boots."

#### YOUNG MEN'S CLUB

The St. Paul's Young Men's Club was brought to a close on Friday last week after a successful session. The club was instituted by a committee of St. Paul's parishioners and was carried on by Mr. O.R. Tarrant with the help of Mrs. Houlton to whom many thanks are due. Through the kindness of the treasurer of the club. (Mr. A.T. Scott) the members were supplied with a billiard table. The Rector The Rev. H. M. Walter) and the Rev. C. Nightingale gave valuable support.

#### CYCLING ACCIDENT

A collision between a motor-cyclist, happily without very serious injuries, occurred on Wednesday morning. Mr. Owen R. Piggott, of the Old House, was riding his motorcycle in Broad Street in the direction of the Market Place, when he collided with Mr. H. Hogburn, Plough Lane, who was also proceeding towards the Market Place from Rose Street. Both riders were thrown to the ground, and Mr. Hogburn was taken by P.C. Foster to Dr. Darling's surgery, where it was found that he had received a badly cut tongue and was suffering from shock, but subsequently able to proceed to his home. Mr. Piggott was uninjured. Both machines were slightly damaged.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July

#### WOKINGHAM ST. PAUL'S GARDEN FETE AT THE ELMS

At the last annual meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council an adverse balance on the churchwarden's accounts was announced, and since that time matters financial have claimed the serious attention of the members. Ways and means of liquidating the deficit and establishing a credit balance were discussed, and eventually it was agreed to promote a fete and gala on a larger scale than had hitherto been attempted.

The committee were fortunate in having the large and picturesque grounds of The Elms, Wokingham, placed at their disposal by the kindness of the Misses Ellison and Mr. E. Boshier, and all that was necessary for complete success was fine weather, but in this respect the promoters were not favoured. Supporters, however, were not to be denied and there was a large attendance.

The fete was gracefully declared open by Lady Victoria Villiers, who was presented with a bouquet. A variety of well-stocked stalls had been erected on the grounds, and in addition numerous competitive amusements were provided for the entertainment of the visitors. Those in charge of the stalls were:--Fancy stall, Mrs. H. Walter, assisted by Mesdames Watson, stead, Haye, Gregorie, Dunne, Harwood, Melville-Anderson, C. Henlé, Misses Kimber, Tarrant, Benson, Curl and Ellison; sweet stall: Miss White and Miss Goswell; refreshment stall: Mrs. Heelas and Mrs. F. Henlé; fruit, vegetables and flowers, Miss Barrow and friend; bran tub, Lady Hamilton and Miss Cornish; racket stall: Miss Deane and Miss Marlow. The games and competitions were arranged by Commander and Mrs. C. Gregorie as follows:--Shooting gallery, Mr. R. Hosler; hoop-la (kindly lent by Miss Sale), Misses Wescott, Finch and Holmes; musical chairs, Miss Eileen West; deck quoits, Mr. R. Haye; clock golf, Mrs Bolton and Mr. G. Moore; hat-trimming, Mr. Cathrow Martin; guessing competitions: cake (given by Mrs. Abott), Miss Mannsell: coins; Mrs. Bolton: forest leaves; , Mrs. Dyke Marsh; birds, beasts and fishes. Miss Johnson; and buried treasure, Nurse Shuth and Miss Toe.

Bowling for a pig was presided over by Mr. A.H. Jones assisted by Messrs. H Lee and E. Wakefield. Donkey rides for the children were supervised by Miss West and Miss De Vitre. The provision of light refreshments proved to be a lucrative branch of the show, all the refreshments being the gifts of members of the congregations and of the members of other denominations. Mrs. Collis and Mrs. Hollis were in charge, and they were assisted by Mesdames Onslow, Barry, R.H. Watts, W. Smith, Misses Desbois and Walter.

Throughout the afternoon and evening a succession of concerts and entertainments were presented. Had the weather been propitious these would have taken place on the lawn, but by the kindness of Miss Ellison rooms in the house were placed at the disposal of the committee. In the afternoon children of King Arthur Schools, who were present by permission of Misses Dillon Clark, gave an excellent rendering of "Cophetun and the Beggar Maid." This was followed by prettily presented maypole dances by infants of St. Paul's Schools, under the direction of Miss Liddiard, and folk dances by Wokingham ladies who are members of the Reading Folk Dance Society.

After tea a performance of "Mechanical Jane" was played by Misses De Vitre and Miss Gregorie, and in the evening an excellent concert arranged by Mr. A. Lusty (organist at St. Paul's Church), took place in the Drill Hall. There was a large attendance and the well-varied programme was much enjoyed. Items were contributed by Miss Plumridge (contralto), Miss Rumming (violin), Mr. F. Burkett (comedian), and Mr. Turner (tenor). Incidental music was played by an instrumental quartette, comprising Mr. Henlé (piano), Miss Gregorie (violin), Mr. H Maidment (violin), Mr. C Gregorie (flute), and Mr. Mavois ('cello). The quartette also played at intervals during the afternoon.

The evening concluded with a dance at the Drill Hall, music being provided by the Town Band.

It is hoped to make the effort an annual one. Mr. H.T. Scott carried out the arduous duties of hon. secretary, and the social committee which was responsible for the arrangements comprised Messrs. White, Adams, Udell, Barratt, Moore, Pocock and Tarrant; and the advertising committee consisted of the Rev. C Nightingale, Messrs. H. T. Scott and Mr. T. Hawkins.

#### GARDEN CONCERT



By the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter), the Town Band played for dancing on the St. Paul's Rectory lawn on Monday evening.

#### TENNIS

Owing to a misunderstanding the result of a lawn tennis match between the Town and Milton Road Clubs reported last week, was stated to have been a victory for the former club. The match was won by the Milton Road Club.

#### TERRITORIALS

Local Territorials held a week-end camp at Finchampstead, from Saturday till Monday, when 91 ranks, including the band, attended under command of Captain A.C. Hughes. Despite unfavourable weather an enjoyable time was spent and considerable useful musketry work accomplished. A prize of 10s., offered by Captain Hughes for distance judging, was won by Lance-Corporal F.H. Beezeley

#### WHIST DRIVE

With a view of augmenting the funds of the Military Band, a successful whist drive and dance was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. There was a very large attendance, and prizes for the whist were presented by Mrs. Fallar to the following players:-Ladies: 1, Miss Gould; 2, Mrs. Bailey. Gentlemen:- 1, Mr. Reed; 2, Mr. Andrews. Mr. L. Blackman was the M.C. for the whist drive and Mr. E. Langley for the dancing, music for which was provided by the Military Band.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL GIFT TO THE CLINIC

On Tuesday afternoon those interested in the Wokingham Clinic assembled in the Town Hall to witness the official handing over of the title deeds of the new headquarters in Denmark Street. The Mayor (Alderman M. Blake) presided, and there were also present the Major-General Sir Walter Cayley, D.S.O., K.C.M.G., and Lady Cayley, Admiral and Mrs. Eustace, Miss Burns, Miss Sturges, Miss Blandy, Mrs. F. Piggott, the Misses Ellison, (2), Mr. G.J. Brodie, Councillors Barrett, Cheeseman, Fryer and Whaley, Mrs. Fryer, Mrs. Melville Anderson, Mrs. And Miss Lloyd, Mr. J.H. Ellison Clifton, Mr. H. Farrington Evans, Mrs. Blake, Miss D. Sale, Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. C. Scragg, and others.

The Mayor said they met on that interesting occasion to reap the benefit of the success which had attended the efforts of the War Memorial Committee. During the Great War the town of Wokingham lost many of its best. Some time ago a meeting was held, when it was agreed to raise money in order that their memories might be perpetuated in the form of a war memorial, and as a result they met that day to witness the handing over of the title deeds of a building to the Orthopaedic Clinic. He was sure that hospitals and hospital work claimed their thoughts and support, and that they realised that there were a large number of their fellow creatures who were unable to benefit by medical science which could be brought to their assistance through the hospitals. To such there must be times of disappointment and despair because of the handicaps under which they lived. It was here that the clinic came to their aid, and endeavoured to remove that disappointment and to bring a ray of sunshine into their lives. The work was going forward daily in their midst. The accommodation at the Town Hall had become insufficient to meet their demands, and today, by Mr. Sale, the title deeds of a more adequate building would be handed to the clinic. There had been

little in the town with Mr. Sale had not been connected, and to him, to his committee, and to those generous supporters of their appeal he desired to pay grateful tribute. (Applause).

Alderman Sale, speaking on behalf of the War Memorial Committee, said that, while he did not intend to go over the ground which they had travelled so many times, an occasion such as that, which celebrated the completion of a task, could not be passed over without a backward glance. The scheme was launched from a feeling of gratitude for work unselfishly done, (Applause.) To some that work meant simple service, to others it meant the giving of lives, and thus it was thought fitting that the memorial should take the form of assistance to a kindred work. He said kindred, because the work of the clinic was a task done unselfishly for others. Reference had been made to the value of that work and to the enormous benefits it was conferring and would confer on those who were afflicted. It was a work of prevention, which gave to those it aided a better start in life. War was a terrible hellish thing, which could not be painted in too lurid colours, but there was nothing without redeeming rays of light. Thus the war brought out unselfishness of character and deeds which thrilled them, and here in Wokingham much work was accomplished. He would like to refer to the work of their late Mayor (the late Mr. Mylne)—(Here, here)—and to what was accomplished by the ladies at the hospitals—(applause)—in connection with which he always thought of the work of Miss Johnson. When the tablet was erected in that hall, he would press for the name of Mr. Mylne to be inscribed thereon, for his work during the war had undoubtedly hastened his end. He had pleasure and honour in handing the deeds of the building purchased with the free-will gifts of grateful hearts of the people of Wokingham, to Admiral Eustace, the treasurer of the Orthopaedic Clinic. They hoped and prayed that God's blessing would rest on their labours. (Applause.)

Admiral Eustace said the committee of the Orthopaedic Clinic desired him on their behalf to accept this splendid gift which they offered, and to tender to them and to all those who had generously provided the means their most hearty thanks for what they had done. The war had taught many useful lessons; perhaps the most valuable was that the keystone of civilisation was fellowship. Upon the high seas and in the trenches our sailors and soldiers—whether they were duke's son or cook's son—did their bit side by side with never a thought of earthly reward. They fought in that truly Christian spirit of fellowship which sharing a common trial always begets. To commemorate those noble lives it was felt that some sort of memorial was required. Much time and patience was exhausted in discussions—some preferred an everlasting witness in stone, others an object of utility, while the majority liked a scheme that would remove some of the suffering at our doors. But whatever might be their opinions as to what constituted an adequate or inadequate war memorial, he prayed that they might no longer clash and that all Wokingham would unite in the spirit of good fellowship to reduce the suffering in their midst. That day they had on the books of the clinic 77 cripples, and their care was a task of which they might be proud (Applause.)

The Mayor read a letter from Alderman W.T. Martin, who addressed his disappointment in being unable to be present. He felt sure that the memorial was such as those in whose memory the building would stand would desire. He hoped a strong appeal would be made to raise the money to execute the repairs and alterations required, and enclosed ten guineas from himself and his wife. Commander Gregorie wrote enclosing a cheque for £5 with wishes for the success of the undertaking, and a letter was read from Miss Furley enclosing a cheque for £3.

Dr. Ward in proposing a vote of thanks to Ald. Sale and the War Memorial Committee, spoke of the success of the Orthopaedic Clinic during the past two years. He also paid tribute to the services of the V.A.D.s who were following up excellent war work with assistance at the clinic.

Councillor Barrett seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation.

Subsequently those present visited and inspected the building, and during the evening several donations were received towards the cost of the alterations and repairs.

#### GARDEN CONCERT

By the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. H.M. Walter), the Town Band played for dancing on St. Paul's Rectory lawn on Monday evening.

#### TENNIS

Sat 23rd Sept

Dorothy Dearlove elder daughter of Mr & Mrs G J Dearlove died suddenly aged 25.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### A CRICKET RECORD

With the retirement of Mr. A.E. Priest from the hon. secretaryship of the Wokingham Town Cricket Club an almost unique record of service is brought to an end, as for nearly fifty years members of the staff and firm of Messrs. Cooke, Cooper and Barry, solicitors, have filled this office. In 12877 Mr. F. Bartlett was appointed and held the position for ten years, he was succeeded by Mr. Barry, who remained in office for 25 years, and lastly Mr. A.E. Priest rendered valuable services as hon. secretary for ten years.

#### WESLEYAN GIRL GUIDES

On Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wokingham Coy. Of Girl Guides (Wesleyan) gave a concert and entertainment in the Wesleyan schoolroom in aid of the renovation fund of the church. Captain R. Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> Coy.) presided, and other local companies assisting were 1<sup>st</sup> Coy. (All Saints') and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy. (Grosvenor School). A sale of work was held, and other attractions included hoop-la, art gallery, refreshments, flower stall, etc. The Rev. G.H. Morris and Mrs. Morris were present. Lady Victoria Villiers (District Commissioner, Girl Guides) also graced the proceedings with her presence.

#### THE TANNERY OFFERED

"The Tannery," in Barkham Road for many years in the occupation of Messrs Philbrick and latterly Harry Grace Ltd was offered for sale by auction on Tuesday at the Rose Hotel, by Messrs. Ayres and Richards, auctioneers, Reading. There was a large company present. The bidding opened at £1,400, and, after advancing by sums of £100 to £1,900, the bidding dropped to £50 and ceased at £2,300, after which the auctioneer announced that he must bid on behalf of the vendors; this he did and the property was bought in at £2,500. It seemed from such a large company present that there should be no difficulty in disposing of this lot. "Loddon Bridge House" and works near Loddon Bridge, Earley, with over 7 acres, attracted much attention. The bidding started at £700 and immediately jumped to £1,000. After much competition the property was knocked down at £1,800.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Vacancies in the fire brigade have been filled by E P Osmond, W W Stewart, C F Mason and R Maddams.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

FLYING TOO LOW.  
AIRMAN FINED AT WOKINGHAM

An interesting case was heard at the Wokingham County Police Court on Tuesday when an airman was fined for flying at too low an altitude over the town. A summons for trick-flying over the town was dismissed. The proceedings the first of their kind for Berkshire were taken under the Air Navigation Orders.

The defendant, Sidney Frank Woods, a young airman with considerable war experience in various parts of the world, was stated to be now in the employ of the Berkshire Aviation Company which arranged for a series of passenger flights and air tricks during the past week at Wokingham. His address was given as "Hillside" Lilleshall, Salop and he was summoned for breaches of Air Navigation Orders by reason of the low altitude was the cause of unnecessary danger to persons below and also with carrying out trick-flying over a town area both on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He pleaded not guilty and Mr. A F Clark (Reading) defended.

Mr Clark asked for the names of the persons to whom danger was caused. Supt. C Goddard said danger must have been caused to hundreds of people but he would give the names of himself and four constables.

Supt. Goddard produced the Order which stated that trick-flying must not be carried out over any city or town area or any populous district, nor must aeroplanes be flown at such a low altitude as to cause unnecessary danger to persons or property. At 2.30 pm on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, he said, he was in the police station, when an aeroplane went over at such a low altitude that it seemed to skim Mr Barry's house. It made a tremendous noise and had there been a timid horse in the street it was more than probable that it would have been alarmed. He had heard that some sort of trick-flying was to be carried out having seen bills to that effect in shop windows. He went towards the meadow where he understood the landing was to be, and at All Saints Church he noticed that another flight was taking place. The aeroplane came over him and was lower than the tower of All Saints' Church. Finding that the meadow was rather further away than he thought he turned back to send a constable on a bicycle. He returned to the Market Place at 3.00 pm and again heard a tremendous noise and looking up he saw the aeroplane come over Barclay's Bank. Until it came over those premises he could not see it. It turned and after rising a little nosed down into a vertical position and turning again returned in the direction from which it came, namely Buckhurst Farm. Later it returned over Broad Street at an exceedingly low altitude and when it had travelled over a shop he could not see it. At the time when it was over Palmer Schools the children were dispersing and had it crashed two or three hundred children would have been in danger.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clark Supt. Goddard would not agree that it was a difficult matter to estimate the height at which an aeroplane was flying

. Defendant was flying at the height of the weather vane at the top of the Town Hall. He did not know that defendant was carrying an altimeter neither has he asked to inspect it. Defendant was unable to show his licence but he was not charged with that.

Mr. John B Holmes, a director of the company, who was commissioned as a pilot during the war in 1918 said he was with the Defendant on December 6<sup>th</sup>. His company had been taking the public for flights during the past four years. The defendant did not perform any trick-flying that afternoon but had turned vertically or "banked" – a

necessary operation. It was extremely difficult to judge the height of an operation but they were carrying an altimeter which never registered below 1,600 feet a height at which, should the engine fail, it would give ample scope to reach a safe landing.

The chairman said that the Bench were of the opinion that there was no trick-flying and that the case would therefore be dismissed. The Bench thought, however, that the defendant was flying too low and the punishment which could be inflicted for that offence was a fine of £200 and six months imprisonment. For this the defendant would be fined £1.

## 1923

Sat 24th March

### DEATH OF MR. HOWARD PALMER

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. W. Howard Palmer, which took place at his residence, Heathlands, Wokingham, on Saturday. He had been ill for a considerable period, and last week he took a turn for the worse, when it became known that he could not last many days.

Born on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865, he was the third son of the late Mr. Samuel Palmer of Northcourt, Hampstead, the second of the three brothers who founded, in conjunction with their cousin., the late Mr. Thomas Huntley, the great firm of Messrs. Huntley and Palmers, Ltd. His brothers are Sir S. Ernest Palmer, Bart., a director of the Great Western Railway, Mr. C. H. Palmer, of Bozodown, Whitchurch, and Lieut.-Colonel A.J. Palmer, D.S.O., who served with distinction in the war in Palestine. Educated at Highgate School, Mr. Howard Palmer later studied finance in Brussels and commerce in London.

Mr. Howard Palmer had been long connected with the Biscuit Factory, where his marked ability and energy singled him out for a prominent career with the firm. It was in 1906 that he succeeded his cousin, the Right. Hon. George William Palmer, as chairman of the company. During the war his energies as head of the firm were taxed to the utmost capacity. At the outbreak, in 1914, he lost for some years the help of three of the directors of the company and several of the skilled managers, in addition to some 1,800 of the workmen who joined the forces. At the same time, war service of extreme importance was proceeding at the Reading Biscuit Factory.

There can be little doubt that the very heavy work and the responsibility and the terrible anxieties of this period, impaired the health of a man who never spared himself, and who devoted himself to a solution of the innumerable difficulties which confronted him with an amount of energy and determination which many younger men might have envied.

At this time also, labour problems became more and more insistent, and before Whitley Councils had been thought of Huntley and Palmers, Ltd., under the guidance of Mr. Howard Palmer, inaugurated a scheme within their factory by which the workers elected a little parliament of their own, consisting of 66 members—one for every complete hundred of workpeople—who meet in the firm's time for the discussion of any matters affecting their welfare, and whose executive officers always have access to the Board of Directors. To these workers the death of Mr. Palmer has come as a great sorrow, for his intercourse with them had gained for him their confidence and respect.

Never content with a superficial examination of any problem, he gave great thought to every question that presented itself, and whilst very tenacious of his own views, he

never failed to afford others ample opportunities of expressing their own opinions. He was straightforward and outspoken in the expression of his own convictions and he never failed to fulfil a promise that he had once given.

The Great War and the desire of Government departments at that time to confer with industries as a whole, instead of with individual manufacturers, led to the formation of the National Association of Biscuit Manufacturers, and of this association Mr. Howard Palmer was elected president.

The welfare of the workers in the biscuit trade became one of the first objects of this association, and the working week was reduced from 51 to 48 hours, at the same time that great boons were extended to the workers in the form of increased rates of wages, and annual holidays with full pay.

#### Service to Agriculture

Mr. Howard Palmer always took a great interest in agriculture, especially in the breeding of pigs, in which he was very successful. His stock at Stokes Farm, Wokingham, had earned a name for itself at every show of note in England. Mr. Palmer reared many remarkable Berkshire pigs, and probably won more prizes with his animals than any other Berkshire pig breeder. The famous "Murrell" breed is known in every quarter where pedigree stock are reared. To mention only a few animals which Mr. Howard Palmer has reared, "Murrell Prince" was considered to be one of the finest boars in the world, and had a long list of show successes, while other first prize pigs bred on the farm include "Murrell Betka", "Murrell Sunshine", "Murrell Sunshade", "Murrell Mistress", "Murrell Lassie", and "Murrell Annie". In 1920 Mr. Palmer was awarded the Berkshire Challenge Cup, presented by the British Berkshire Society to the owner whose combined entries of Berkshire pigs obtained most points at shows held by the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He also reared some remarkable Shire horses, his most successful animals including "Monks Green Melody", "Stokes' Victor", and "Stokes' Coming Queen", the last named mare taking many prizes at various shows.

Although he always refused to come forward as a candidate for Parliamentary honours, Mr. Howard Palmer took an active part in county affairs. He was a keen supporter of the Conservative cause, and had presided at meetings in Reading, while he was always greatly interested in the Conservative cause in Wokingham and district. He was chairman for nearly 20 years, from 1900, of the Wokingham Conservative Association. In 1898 he became J.P. for the County, and in 190? Was the High Sheriff. He was a vice president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and a governor of Reading University College, to both of which institutions he and his firm were such generous subscribers. He was also a valued member of the Berkshire Territorial Force Association, and vice-chairman of the Bear Wood Management of Broadmoor Asylum

In 1920 Mr. Howard Palmer accepted the presidency of the Royal Counties Agricultural Society, whose show was held in Reading that year. He had been a member of the council of the society for some years. Mr. Palmer was deservedly popular with agriculturists, and he discharged the duties which fell on him as president with dignity and geniality. He was also more than once president of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association.

It is impossible to appraise all that Mr. Howard Palmer did for the Reading Athletic Club. When, about the year 1888, he became captain of the club there was a deficit balance, but this position of affairs was soon altered, and as was stated in one of the old reports, "the prosperity and progress of the R.A.C. from the time of Mr. Palmer's acceptance of office.

On the death of the president, Sir George Russell, Bart., M.P., in 1898, there was only one possible person as his successor, the choice being absolutely unanimous.

Mr. Howard Palmer was keenly interested in the Berkshire County Cricket Club and since he purchased the ground in Kensington R., Reading, it has always been at the disposal of the club. He himself at one time captained the Biscuit Factory Cricket Club, and made some excellent scores. He was also a good half back at football. He was chairman of the committee of the Garth Hunt, and was a keen rider to hounds. When the meets were at Heathlands he generously entertained the followers. He was also fond of shooting and lawn tennis. A great lover of flowers—as shown by the beautifully kept grounds of Heathlands—he was especially successful with the cultivation of orchids. Mr. Howard Palmer was president of the Pinewood United Football Club, and a vice-president of the Reading Imperials Football Club. In the former's match with Valley End in the Ascot League on Saturday, the players, as a token of respect to their president, wore black armlets.

Mr. Howard Palmer married in 1890 Miss Ada Morgan, daughter of Mr. William Reed, of Onslow Gardens, S.W., and she and one son, Mr. Reginald H.R. Palmer, M.C., survive him.

#### War Memorial Hall

As a thank-offering to God for the safe return of their son from the war, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Palmer made a generous gift of a war memorial hall to the parish of St. Sebastian's, Wokingham. Erected according to the design of Mr. S. Phillips Dale, F.S.A. the hall is a very picturesque structure, consisting of a main hall, with a well-appointed stage, with a moveable partition to divide the hall into two sections should the occasion arise. A finely equipped billiard room adjoins the main hall. This whole building was substantially and comfortably furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Palmer. A memorial window bears an inscription and the names of the fallen of the parish. Mr. Reginald H.R. Palmer served in the Grenadier Guards during the war, and was awarded the M.C.

#### The Funeral

Extreme simplicity was the keynote of the funeral service which took place at St. Sebastian's Church, near Wokingham, on Tuesday, when the mortal remains of Mr. Palmer were laid to rest in a moss and primrose-lined grave in the peaceful churchyard of the little village church on the outskirts of the old Windsor Forest.

The coffin upon which rested three beautiful wreaths, was drawn, upon a bier by four of the oldest employees of the Heathlands Estate through the private walk to the church. Behind it walked the two nearest relatives.

(Funeral details)

Sat 21st April

#### WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL NEW CLINIC BUILDING OPENING

Sacrifice is the keynote of the building, for its acquisition was made possible not only by large subscriptions from residents in the district, but by a large number of smaller amounts, whilst the work of adapting the hall for its purpose was carried out by men of the town who, after completing their day's work, gave their leisure hours to the completing of the alterations required. The majority of the fittings to the interior of the building were the gifts of the tradesmen in the neighbourhood.

The building which is situated in Denmark Street, comprises of two large halls, one of which is fitted as an examination and reception room, and several smaller rooms. A tablet affixed to the front of the building bears the inscription:--

## The Wokingham Memorial Clinic

The people of Wokingham have given  
This building to be used as an Orthopaedic  
Clinic in memory of the men who gave  
their lives for their country in the Great  
War of 1914-1918, and in thankfulness  
To Almighty God for those who came  
Back in safety, confident that the memory  
Of their service and sacrifice can best be  
Honoured in the fight against disease and  
deformity

### The Opening Ceremony

A large number of people assembled outside the building for the opening ceremony, members of the local detachment of the V.A.D., who assisted in the local hospitals during the war and are now identified with the work of the clinic under Lady Cayley, forming a guard of honour at the entrance hall.

When the Marchioness of Downshire, who was accompanied by the Marquis, arrived she was received by the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman M. Blake). As mayor of the borough and chairman of the Orthopaedic Committee, he had, he said, great pleasure in expressing to the Marchioness of Downshire their thanks for her acceptance of the invitation to open the building. It was but further evidence of her kindly interest in the borough of Wokingham.

The Mayor then presented her Ladyship with the key with which she opened the building.

A second ceremony was held within the building, when the Marchioness of Downshire presided and was supported by the Mayor and Admiral J.B. Eustace. Also present were many dignitaries and speeches followed.

Lady Downshire was presented with a bouquet of carnations by little Miss Burkett who was a patient of the clinic.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Aug

### TOWN HALL

We noticed a few weeks ago the efforts made for the purpose of erecting a new clock on the turret of our Town Hall. After the committee had decided upon accepting the tender of Mr Tucker of London for the erection of the clock and the funds necessary had been generously contributed by the inhabitants and their friends a strong desire was expressed by many of them that the new clock should strike the quarter hours. The estimate has consequently been amended by the addition of the necessary works to carry out what certainly appears to be a great improvement on the original and this includes three bells which are considered requisite. It will alter the amount to £100 and has been collected. We trust that all intending subscribers will at once forward their donations.

### FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE

A presentation was made to two chief officers of the Wokingham Fire Brigade each receiving a silver bar, denoting five year's service. This makes the fifth of these bars gained by Captain F. Caiger he having now put in 46 years of service, having joined



in 1877. He is the only one of the original brigade now actively serving. Lieut. A. Goswell received his third silver bar and has put in 35 years service.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### SUNDAY MUSIC

The concert given in the Drill Hall on Sunday by the band of the 4<sup>th</sup> Batt. Royal Berkshire Regt. (T) was greatly appreciated by a large audience.

#### EMMBROOK RACING PIGEON CLUB

The recent show of the above club held at The Thatched Cottage Inn, Embrook, proved very successful. The promoters extend many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hexman for their assistance. There were three classes, and the awards were as under:--Class I. (members): 1, Mr. A. Goble; 2 and res., Mr. F.W. Miles; 3. Mr. J.C. Cloke. The prizes in Class 1, were given by Mr. MacPherson. Class II. (members only): 1, Mr. A. Goble (and special prize given by Mr. Barker for best bird in the show); 2. Mr. V. Challis; 3. Mr. C. Hambleton; res., Mr. H. Smale. Class III (open to competitors within 1½ miles of Embrook); and res., Capt. Hawkes; 2. Mr. F. Trinder; 3. Mr. P. Palmer. Mr. F.W. Miles of Matthews Green, is the secretary and treasurer of the club.

#### GIRL GUIDES

The annual meeting of the local association of the Wokingham Girl Guides was held at the Church House. Miss St. Quintin, the district commissioner for Bracknell, was introduced by Miss Cordes (county commissioner). The former is acting commissioner for Wokingham vice the Lady Victoria Villiers, resigned, owing to the new division of the county. Miss C. Robinson accepted the position of hon. treasurer, and Mrs. Smith was appointed vice-chairman of the association. Financial, district and company reports of a satisfactory nature were presented. It was noted that, owing to lack of facilities, guides were unable to obtain first-class badges because they had no opportunity to learn to swim. A resolution was passed strongly urging that facilities for learning to swim should be provided for the town.

#### FIRE AT BILL HILL

Damage estimated at over £600

A serious outbreak of fire occurred on Sunday afternoon on the premises of Mrs. Leveson Gower at Pikes Farm, Bill Hill, Wokingham, a moderate estimate of the damage being £600. Three large hay ricks were completely destroyed and a shed partly filled with hay was gutted. The outbreak was discovered by Ernest George Simmons, of Forest Ride, Wokingham, who at 3.15 p.m. was walking past the farm when he noticed flames emerging from the hay shed. He at once informed Mr. Fifield, and the Wokingham Fire Brigade were summoned. The brigade received the call at 3.25 p.m., and within four minutes their motor fire engine was on its way to Bill Hill, but on arrival they found that the fire had obtained a firm hold. A strong wind was blowing, and flames were carried from one rick to another, until all three were ablaze, and when night fell the glow of the flames was discernable for miles around. The brigade were somewhat hampered through lack of water, the only supply available being from a small pond near the rick yard., and this was husbanded in order to preserve the farmhouse, which was so near to the flames that tar on the woodwork melted and ran. Had the wind been in the opposite direction the house would have been in a precarious position. The brigade remained on duty all night and for the greater part of Monday, but towards the evening Captain F. Caiger considered it necessary to return to headquarters in case the engine should be required locally. Guy

Fawkes' nights, he remarked to our representative sometimes yielded a crop of outbreaks. Two firemen were left on duty, and the ricks smouldered for some days.

Estimates of the amount of hay destroyed vary between 100 and 150 tons. The hay was the property of Mr. W.A. Fifield and was insured with the Eagle and British Dominion Insurance Co.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

#### ROYAL VISIT TO WOKINGHAM

The visit of Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria G.B.E. to Wokingham on Wednesday, was of a two-fold nature. In the first place Her Highness in the Lady President of the League of Mercy for Berks and North Wilts, Bucks, Hants and Oxon; and it was on behalf of the funds of this organisation that the entertainment was held. Secondly she is the president of the Wokingham Choral and Orchestral Society whose members, under their conductor, Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., were responsible for the programme presented to the large and representative audience which assembled.

Her Highness was received at the entrance to the Drill Hall by the Mayor of Wokingham (Admiral J.B. Eustace), a guard of honour being formed in the courtyard by members of the Luckley School Troop of Girl Guides and the band of the East Hampstead Troop of Rovers, the Royal salute being given. When Princess Helena Victoria entered the hall the National Anthem was played, and the Mayor extended to her a welcome on behalf of the audience.

The concert arranged by Mr. A Yould was an excellent one, the main item being the presentation of Sir Sterndale Bennett's "The May Queen." The second half of the programme was devoted to Edward German's "Merrie England."

During an interval the Mayor referred to the welcome visit of Princess Helena Victoria and also extended a welcome to Mrs. Murdoch. Quoting from the report he said that during Her Highness's term of office some £35,000 had been collected on behalf of the League of Mercy, and added that though the contributory scheme in Berkshire deserved and was receiving the fullest support the needs of the hospitals further afield should not be forgotten.

1924

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### OLD PHEASANT INN WOKINGHAM

The annual share-out of the Old Pheasant Inn Slate Club, Wokingham Road, took place on December 21<sup>st</sup>, each member received £1. 8s. 2d. A vote of thanks to the host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew for the use of room and attendance during the year was passed.

#### POOR LAW INSTITUTION

A successful concert was given by the Reading Men's Wesley Guild Concert Party at the above Institution. Every item in the programme was much appreciated by a very large audience consisting of the inmates, officers and their friends. Votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hinton and the Concert Party was enthusiastically given.

SUPT. C. GODDARD.  
AWARD OF THE KING'S POLICE MEDAL

Residents in the wide area of the Wokingham Police Division will endorse the cordial congratulations which have already been expressed to Supt. Charles Goddard upon the inclusion of his name in the New Year's list of awards of the King's Police Medal, one of the highest honours which can be accorded to members of the police service, which has been made to him for his distinguished record in the administrative branches of the service, for his success in organising the Police Force, and for special services to Royalty and heads of State.

This year Mr. Goddard celebrates his "coming of age" as superintendent of the Wokingham Division, and his courtesy, tact and attention to duty during that lengthy period have gained for him many close friends and the esteem of all. He joined the Berkshire Constabulary 43 years ago, but was supernumerary until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1883, when he was sworn, a full member of the Force and was stationed, as are all members of the constabulary, at headquarters Reading, until July 6<sup>th</sup> of that year, when he was transferred to Maidenhead. In the same year he was on duty at the historic great review of the United Kingdom Volunteer Force in Windsor Park. His first case of importance was the finding of the body of a baby in Bray Lock, and although at the inquest the jury returned an open verdict, he was directed to continue his inquiries, which resulted a week later in the arrest of the child's mother.

In August, 1885, he was transferred to Sandhurst, at that time a rough "beat," owing, in some degree, to the number of unemployed who at that period lived in the district. Difficult work and lively assaults were part of his lot whilst he was in Sandhurst, but with the building of a police station and the construction of new roads, and, not the least important, the obtaining of the assistance of P.C. (now Inspector) Haddrell, the district settled into its present peaceful condition.

During Supt. Goddard's service, he has been on duty at all the important functions in the area. Ascot, with its world-renowned race meeting, falls within his district, and his experiences include investigations of the woman murder at Windsor and extensive burglaries at Ascot. He was also detailed with a staff of constables to organise new beats for the better protection of the neighbourhood, and assisted in making the arrangements for the last visit of her late Majesty Queen Victoria to Wellington College on Mafeking Day. In July 1901, Mr. Goddard first came to Wokingham as inspector, being promoted to his present rank two years later. During the past twenty years it has fallen to his lot to make the police arrangements for a great number of Royal visits to the Royal Military College and Wellington College, and on many occasions has been complimented for their efficiency. He recalls with considerable interest an occasion when, during a visit of King Edward VII to Wellington, he "corrected" his Majesty, who was keeping Queen Alexandria, the Duke of Connaught, and other members of the Royal family, ready posed for the photographer, waiting. Mr. Goddard has a copy of the photograph, the group including the present Bishop of Norwich, then Master of Wellington.

Supt. Goddard has carried through much successful detective work, and arrested and brought into custody a long list of notorious criminals. During the war he enlisted and trained a strong force of Special Constables. In this connection he has compiled and has published an interesting and well-produced brochure entitled "Berkshire Special Constables (Wokingham Division): A Short History from 1911 to 1921" – a comprehensive survey not only of the activities and accomplishments of the Force, but of their history, which is far less modern than is generally believed.

WOKINGHAM BRITISH LEGION  
CHILDREN ENTERTAINED

On New Year's Day the members of the Wokingham British Legion Club gave their annual entertainment to the orphans and children of ex-Service men in the town and no effort was spared to ensure that each of the 140 little guests should thoroughly enjoy the afternoon. Mr. C.W. Law was the hon. secretary of the entertainment committee, and was assisted by Mr. D. Goddard and a committee of club members, who gaily decorated the Church House, where the entertainment was held.

Many good things were provided for the tea, with which the proceedings commenced, and afterwards games were organised by Mrs. Marks and Miss Blackman. Before the left each was presented with a gift taken from a giant Christmas tree by Santa Claus in the person of Mr. G. Townsend. The Mayor (Admiral J.B. Eustace) visited the hall, and on behalf of the guests thanked the members of the club for the entertainment, and Mr. Law, Mr. Goddard and the helpers were thanked at the instance of Mr. C.H. Andrews, the general secretary of the local branch of the Legion. The Mayor was accompanied by General Sir Walter D.S. Cayley (vice-chairman of the club), and General Wilkinson.

Ladies who helped were Mrs. W. Webb, Mrs. G. Hope, Mrs. Budd, Mrs. H. Berry, Mrs. F. Hallett, Mrs. Fidler, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Paxman. The entertainment was provided from a fund subscribed to by members and friends of the Legion Club.

Later a large number of members of the club, with their friends, participated in a social evening, when a programme of games, music and dancing was enjoyed.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

#### FIRE AT WOKINGHAM SHOP AND STORES GUTTED

A serious fire broke out at Wokingham on Saturday, and in just over an hour a double story building used by Mr. W. Denton as a warehouse and showroom for furniture manufactured by the Forest Furnishing Company, and by Mr. Osborne as a tailor's and outfitter's shop, were completely destroyed. The outbreak was first discovered about midnight by Mr. C.E. Dowdswell, who was motoring past, and noticing smoke issuing from the building he immediately gave the alarm. Mt. Frank Lush, who was cycling from Reading, broke the alarm at the fire station. The Wokingham Fire Brigade were on the scene with their customary promptitude, but in the short space of time which had elapsed between the giving of the alarm and the arrival of the brigade, the fire had obtained a firm hold, the building being enveloped in flames. The brigade's activities were somewhat hampered owing to lack of water, but additional pressure was put on at the waterworks, and energies were concentrated on saving the six cottages in South Place which run at right angles from Peach Street and adjoin Mr. Denton's premises. Firemen mounted the roof of the cottages, and by keeping the exterior of the end cottage drenched with water were successful in preventing the fire from spreading. Ultimately the roof of the building crashed down, carrying with it, the floor of the upper storey, and a great volume of sparks and flames ascended, creating some danger to the premises near the Easthampstead Road. The heat was so great that the firemen only carried out their task with great difficulty. It was impossible to stand on the opposite side of the road, where paint on the shop fronts was blistered and scorched, and the windows of Mr. Price's shops were cracked. The precaution of moving all the furniture from Mr. E. Green's house in South Place was taken, whilst on one occasion the fire engine had to be moved further from the flames. The premises were entirely burnt out by one o'clock, but continued to smoulder for many hours afterwards.

We understand that the buildings, furniture, etc. owned by Denton were insured, whilst Mr. Osborne, who only recently commenced his business in the premises, was insured with the Royal Insurance Company.

There is nothing to show how the fire started, Mr. Osborne having seen that everything was safe at 9.15 p.m., and passers-by shortly before midnight noticed nothing unusual. It is thought, however, that the conflagration must have started at the rear of the building.

The fire brigade deserve warm commendation for the scientific manner in which they handled the outbreak, and although they were unable to save the building they certainly prevented the fire from spreading. Captain Caiger was in command, Lieut. Goswell was in charge of the left-hand delivery, and Engineer Martin on the right. Afterwards to our representative Captain Caiger said the work of the brigade would have been considerably facilitated had they had three-way hydrants at their disposal. He had been urging that these should be installed for the past ten years.

Mr. Denton has been somewhat unfortunate in the matter of fires. The Forest Furniture Factory was burned down on October 27<sup>th</sup> 1921, and on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1920, the services of the fire brigade were requisitioned to quell a minor outbreak at Mr. Denton's private residence.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### A LIBRARY PROPOSAL

The Mayor reported that a sub-committee had met Mr. Cooper, the County Librarian, and discussed the proposed scheme for opening a branch of the County Council's library in Wokingham, it being suggested that the Bank Room should be used for the purpose. This report was adopted.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WOKINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL

"Lest We Forget"

#### SIR DOVETON STURDEE'S SPEECH

In clear black lettering and enclosed in panelling of oak are inscribed the names of the men of Wokingham who, in response to the call of humanity, fought and died. No ranks or corps are recorded, for in the magnitude of their sacrifice all were equal, and the list, two hundred and seventeen in all, is striking testimony of the part played by the Borough of Wokingham in the greatest war in history. The unveiling of the memorial tablet on Sunday afternoon marks the completion of the town's memorial scheme which included the acquisition and converting of a building in Denmark Street for the use of the Wokingham Orthopaedic Clinic and, despite the delay and the many suggestions considered, the project has received general approbation in that not only does it fittingly perpetuate the memory of the fallen, but serves also the living. The memorial tablet is erected in the annexe of the Town Hall and is carried out in handsomely carved oak, the emblem of the sword of sacrifice being inlaid on either side. It bears the inscription:--

IN GLORIOUS MEMORY.

1914-1919.

To the honour of the men of Wokingham, who gave their lives in the Great War. The Orthopaedic Clinic Buildings in Denmark Street were also acquired by the town as a grateful tribute to their gallant memory, and to the untiring devotion of Henry Charles Mylne, Mayor

1913-19. Died October 21, 1919

The names are inscribed in black ornate lettering on white panels. The memorial was designed by Mr. Vincent Craig.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir F.C. Doveton Sturdee, Bart., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., who was the commander in the famous action off the Falkland Isles, 1914, and received his K.C. M.G. for the Battle of Jutland Bay.

Seats were reserved for the relatives of the fallen, of whom there was a large number present. Admiral Sturdee was accompanied by Lady Sturdee, and there were at the hall the Rev. H.W. Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C. (assistant chaplain general during the war), Lady Cayley, the Mayor of Wokingham (Admiral J.B. Eustace), the Rev. B. Long, the Rev. Martin Harvey, Aldermen M. Blake and P. Sale. Councillors F.E. Chapman, G.M.E. Fryer, J.G. Jefferies, W.J. Cheeseman, A.E. Priest, F.J. Barratt, E.W. Reeves and W.S. Medcalfe, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk) and Mr. C.W. Marks (Borough Surveyor).

The Mayor stated that they were gathered there to pay their tribute of respect to those gallant men who gave their lives for their King and Empire during the Great War. The Town Council had given the best position on the walls of the Town Hall for the memorial tablet. Where all could see the names of those they loved, upon the roll of honour. Mr. Sale on whose shoulders rested much of the organisation, would make a statement on the subject.

#### The History of the Memorial

Mr. Sale said it was a source of great satisfaction to him that he was allowed to take part in the ceremony to bring to completion the project which he had much at heart. He would always have some little pride in bearing a part in helping to bring it to a successful conclusion. There was almost an apology due for the lateness of the date on which the memorial was to be unveiled. They were now in the tenth year since the commencement of the Great War, and it was almost six years since the Armistice. The explanation was that when their late honoured and revered Mayor, Mr. H.C. Mylne, whose labours throughout the war undoubtedly shortened his days, called a public meeting to consider what form the memorial should take, counsels were divided. Some said "Let us have nothing but a monumental memorial"; others said "Let us have something is of practical utility to the living." That resulted in the delay of the whole scheme, and meanwhile other memorials were started and carried out. Memorial were erected in the Parish Church, St. Paul's, the Baptist and Wesleyan Churches and the Drill Hall. There should, however, be some memorial for the men of Wokingham as such, belonging to no section or no one body, but belonging to them all—men of Wokingham. Consequently in 1921 they began again, and this time plans were decided upon. The work of the Orthopaedic Clinic had been started, and had appealed to the imaginations of the people of Wokingham and to their hearts in a manner surpassed in regard to no other object. The ideal, the cure of affliction and turning helpless cripples into useful members of society appealed to everyone, and consequently it was decided to raise a fund to purchase a present to the Clinic a building in which that work could be carried on, and at the same time to erect a memorial to those who fell in the war. Notwithstanding the four or five other memorials which had been carried out, the response to their appeal was, on the whole, good. They had a total amount given in subscriptions of £567, subscriptions varying from £50 down to 1d. but probably those small sums entailed an equality of sacrifice with the larger amounts. So the Clinic building was purchased at a cost of £425 and handed over to the Clinic Committee and the work was being successfully carried out. Then they all set about the present memorial, which, he thought they would agree was a worthy specimen of the craftsmanship of Wokingham men. The money collected

was sufficient, and they had a small balance in hand. Willingly, if they could, would they have included the name of every one who gave his services, but space would not allow. They hoped that when future generations read the inscription on the Clinic building and looked at the list of names it would inspire them with a passion for service and sacrifice. If that was not the effect then their efforts would have been in vain. The only hope for the future was that they would, as members of one body be willing to serve not only for their own good, but for the good of the whole community.

The Mayor, introducing Sir Doveton Sturdee, said the distinguished officer who had honoured them with his presence that day had held many high positions by his ability, and had done great service during the war.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March

#### BANK MANAGER RETIRES

Mr. Robert McEwan, the well-known and respected manager of the London and Westminster Bank's branch at Broad Street, Wokingham retired on Friday last week after some fifty year's service. He joined the bank in 1875, and served in Aylesbury, Rosslyn, Reading, Southend and Catford before coming to Wokingham to open a branch in 1905. Before that, 34 years ago, he first opened a sub-branch in the Market Place, coming out for that purpose from Reading one day a week.

Mr. McEwan married in 1912 Miss Jessie Stott, second daughter of Mrs. Stott, of Aberdeen. Mr. McEwan has, during his stay in Wokingham made many friends, who are sorry to lose him from among them. He was always most attentive to business and to the interests of the bank's clients.

The successor to Mr. R. McEwan is Mr. H. C. Ingle, who comes from the Oxford branch of the London and Westminster Bank.

#### FORMATION OF LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

The newly-formed Liberal Association met in the Town Hall on Saturday for the purpose of adopting rules and electing officers. The temporary committee held a meeting before the larger gathering, Mr. W.P. Tucker presiding. He also occupied the chair for the large meeting. It was decided to name the association "The Wokingham and District Branch of the South Berks Liberal Association." Mr. W.P. Tucker was unanimously elected president of the association on the proposition of Mr. T.W. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. H. Goswell. It was decided to have 20 vice-presidents, including Mr. Harold Stranger M.P., and Mrs. Stranger. Mr. George Cheeseman was elected treasurer, and Miss Griffin and Mr. G. Hall hon. secretaries. An executive committee and two hon. auditors were also elected. An address was then given by the Rev. David Pughe, of Reading.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March

#### THE DEMOLITION OF BILLINGBEAR MANSION

The famous Billingbear Mansion is now in the hands of the house-breakers. (1) Oak and walnut fireplace in hall (early 18<sup>th</sup> century) (2) Main entrance to Billingbear built in 1569 (3) Lead rainwater pipe head with coat of arms, 1725 (4) Main staircase in oak (early 18<sup>th</sup> century) (5) Turret clock by John Davis of Windsor dated 1756, maker of the clock in Windsor Curfew Tower.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April

#### FIRE BRIGADE

Dr. H.F. Curl has accepted the position of hon. surgeon to the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE

A subscription list under the name of Wokingham Fire Brigade Recognition fund has been opened in Wokingham for the purchase of a light motor fire engine, and the expenses of the celebration. For many years the brigade has rendered invaluable service to the town and district.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May

#### DEATH OF MAJOR DE VITRE

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death (early on Tuesday morning), of Major Denis F. De Vitre, of Keep Hatch, Wokingham, who has been in failing health for some time. Major De Vitre was the only son of the late Rev. G.E. Denis De Vitre, who built Keep Hatch, and then lived there for some years. Major De Vitre was educated at Eton, and, later at Cambridge, and studied law, and was called to the Bar, but he never practised. He married his cousin, Miss Blanche De Vitre, daughter of General De Vitre.

For 28 years the deceased gentleman was a Volunteer or Territorial officer, and was for a long period in command of the Wokingham Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, retiring with the rank of Major. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he was appointed recruiting officer at Wokingham, which appointment he held throughout the war.

He served on the Berkshire County Council as member of the Wokingham Without, taking the place of the late Mr. A.F. Walter, but in 1919, on seeking re-election, he was defeated by Mr. George Ford.

In November, 1912, he was elected on the Wokingham Royal District Council and Board of Guardians, vice the late Alderman T.M. Wescott. These positions he held until 1919, being vice-chairman of the two bodies, and chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1919 he was defeated at the election by Mr. H.E. Bennett.

He was a member of the Wokingham (Without) Parish Council, since its formation in 1894, was vice-chairman, and then chairman, which latter office he has held for a long period.

As Parish Council representative, he served on the Committee of Managers of St. Paul's Schools, Wokingham. He has also for many years acted as Rector's Churchwarden of St. Paul's Church, which he has attended regularly.

He was director and chairman of the Board of the Wokingham District Water Company.

Politically the deceased gentleman was a staunch Conservative, and was for many years chairman of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association, being succeeded in that office quite recently by Mr. J.M.H. Uphil.

Mr. De Vitre was one of the trustees of Wokingham United Charities, was a member of the Garth Hunt, and of the Ball Committee of that hunt.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> May

#### MIDLAND BANK ADDITIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 2,4 and 6, Broad Street, Wokingham, under the management of Mr. G.C. Wilson. The hours of



business at this office are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on other days. The subscribed capital of the bank is £39,221,703, the paid-up capital £11,965,452, the reserve fund £11,965,452, and on December 31<sup>st</sup> last the current deposit and other accounts exceeded £360,000,000. At the present time the bank has over 1,760 offices in England and Wales, and, in addition, controls the Belfast Banking Co., Ltd., with over 90 offices in Ireland, the Clydesdale Bank Ltd., and the North of Scotland Bank, Ltd., with upwards of 180 and 150 offices respectively in Scotland, and the London City and Midland Executor and trustee Co., Ltd.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> July

#### A VISIT TO WEMBLEY

About 50 scholars of St. Paul's School's with Mr. H. Bagley, head master, and teachers visited Wembley on Wednesday.

#### POLICE TUG-OF-WAR SUCCESS

The police tug-of-war team visited the British Legion sports on Saturday at Camberley, and succeeded in retaining the championship cup, defeating the team of the West Surrey Regiment, who were runners-up to the R.E. in the Army Championship at Olympia.

#### ST. PAUL'S FETE

Upwards of £150 was taken at the successful parochial fete, of St. Paul's, held last week. It was expected that the proceeds for parochial funds will reach £125. The hon. secretaries, Mr. A.T. Scott and the Rev. C. Nightingale, and all concerned are to be congratulated upon such a splendid result.

#### DANGER OF MODERN FARMING

Haymaking, under ideal conditions, had taken place a Manor Farm (Mr. Reginald Palmer's) and on Tuesday morning men were busy just before 8 o'clock, and were nearing the completion of the building of a 50-ton rick of fine hay, when the motor of a petrol-driven elevator back-fired, setting the rick on fire. Men on the rick jumped quickly to safety. The whole rick blazed furiously, and a barn and some stables also caught fire, and all were destroyed. The Wokingham Fire Brigade promptly answered the call, and obtaining water from a pond a quarter of a mile away, soon had the outbreak within bounds, saving many other sheds and stables. The loss is covered by insurance.

#### YOUNG IMPERIALISTS

The Junior Imperial League has as its object the teaching of imperial ideas and principles to the youth of the Empire. The Hon. Mrs. Whitefoord kindly placed her grounds of East Brook, Finchampstead Road, at the disposal of those who desired to form for Wokingham a branch of the Junior Imperial League. The guests, who were numerous, first enjoyed a stroll around the garden. Then followed a capital concert on the lawn by the Spare Parts Concert Party, who ably maintained their reputation. Mr. Garmeston, vice-chairman of the league, gave an address, after which enrolment of members took place. The numbers enrolled were very satisfactory. Dancing on the lawn, with Mr. Boddington as pianist and Mr. D. Goddard as M.C. followed. The Hon. Mrs. Whitefoord was cordially thanked for her hospitality, as was Miss Powell, who obtained refreshments.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### TOWN HALL LIBRARY

It was reported that the librarian, Miss Harwood, had received the first consignment of books from the Berkshire County Library and that the shelves in the cupboard of the Bank Room had been cleared for their reception. It was arranged that the library be opened forthwith and in the future would be opened on Friday in every week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Nov

The following were appointed:

Sergt. At Mace: Charles Sparks

Hon. Constables: W. Pearce, Jeffries, A.H. Jones, H. Dyer.

Town Crier: Mr. Banks

## 1925

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### ST. PAUL'S WOKINGHAM

The authorities of St. Paul's church, Wokingham, have been offered for £100 the field adjoining the churchyard on the western side, as an addition to the burial ground. A generous donor has offered £50 conditional on the rest of the money being raised by voluntary subscriptions.

A memorial tablet to the late Major de Vitre, rector's churchwarden for many years of St. Paul's, Wokingham, has been erected in tablet form on the interior south wall of the church. An alabaster slab over green marble has a white marble centre, on which is inscribed the following: "In ever-loving memory of Denis Frederick Denis De Vitre, only son of the Rev. G.E. Denis De Vitre; born March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1867, at Weston Vicarage, Herts; died May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1924 at Keep Hatch, Wokingham, where he lived for 50 years. 'The gift of God is eternal life.'" His ashes lie around the adjacent buttress outside.

At a recent meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council it was approved that application be made for a faculty for the erection of a memorial plate in the church to the memory of the late Sir Edward Walter K.C.B. (founder of the Corps of Commissionaires), and Marianne, his wife who from 1867 till 1887 were worshippers at this church.

Sat 7th March

#### WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS

Her majesty the Queen has purchased four of the water-colour drawings of South African gardens painted by Miss Elizabeth Drake, of Wokingham. These drawings have been reproduced by A. and C. Black Ltd. to illustrate the book on "South African Gardens," by Miss Dorothea Fairbridge. The subjects selected by her Majesty are: "Bougainvillea at Welgelegen, Cape,"; "Pergola at De Grendel, Tijgerberg,"; "hydrangeas by the Water, Bishops court, Cape" and "Hydrangeas on the Stoep, Paradise, Cape."

#### EMIGRATION CINEMA LECTURE ON CANADA.

At the Wokingham Cinema, Broad Street, on Friday evening, under the auspices of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a cinematograph display and illustrated lecture was given by Major W.H. Hayward (late member of the Legislator of British Columbia), entitled "Your Chance in Canada." There was a large attendance, and the lecture was followed with much interest, new films featuring agriculture, dairying, fruit raising and cattle ranching in operation, while there were also views of the mountain scenery and the well-equipped railroad cars and ocean liners of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### TERRITORIAL WEEKEND

"D" Company spent Saturday night under canvas at the Finchampstead range and on Sunday morning carried out a portion of their training in which they practised the company attack. Met by their band on Sunday morning they marched back to the Drill Hall, where they arrived about 12.15 p.m. The men were in full marching kit with rifles. Captain A.C. Hughes commanded and Lieuts R. Haye and E.S. Ford, D.F.C., were also present, while Bandmaster A. Bradshaw was in charge of the band. In addition to the officers, 75 of other ranks took part in the operation.

#### GIRL GUIDES CHURCH PARADES

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Companies of Girl guides, the Brownie pack and the little boys of the Wokingham Wolf Cubs attended Divine service at All Saints on Sunday morning (Empire Day). The bodies assembled in the Market Place and marched with their colours to the church. The Rev. B. M. Niblett preached an appropriate sermon. During the service the colours, which had been dedicated, were placed within the sanctuary. No. 3 Company (Wesleyan) attended Divine service at their own church, Rose Street, having completed arrangements before receiving the order for general church parade.

#### A SKIDDING BUS

Passengers in the Thames Valley 'bus, which arrived around 10 p.m. on Saturday night in Wokingham, had a somewhat alarming experience. In the middle of Broad Street the 'bus skidded as the driver attempted, we understand, to avoid a woman in the road. The 'bus crashed into and felled a lamp-post in the centre of the street, and this wrenched the driving wheel out of his hands, so that the 'bus swerved and crashed into the large iron railings of Markham House (General Wilkinson's residence). About 18 feet of the railings were flattened, and the stone pedestals supporting them were torn from their position, iron standards were broken, and the containing wall of the area was damaged. Fortunately the 'bus stopped on the pavement, whence it was subsequently driven away. The passengers were a good deal shaken. Some two years ago an exactly similar accident occurred at the same lamp-post, when a private motor car crashed into the railings of Markham House.

#### MASQUE BY GIRL GUIDES

As an Empire Day celebration the Girl Guides of Wokingham gave in the Town Hall on Saturday evening an excellent entertainment, styled, "Follow On," a masque for Empire Day, adapted and arranged by Miss R.C. Smith, and produced by Miss D.M. Finch; both ladies hold the rank of captain of the Girl Guides of Wokingham. "Land of Hope and Glory" was sung. Patrol Leader G. Welch recited "Victory and the Soldier" (Rupert Brooke), in capital style, and Miss N. Tanner gave with dramatic force, "England, a Garden." A performance for children was given in the afternoon.

There was a large attendance, and the Masque, which was well staged and capitally performed, gave every satisfaction. Hiawatha and the Red Indians were especially well done. Canada and her productions received ample and effective treatment. India was a charming display, while New Zealand and Australia were graphically represented, specially effective being the Maori dance. The tousle-headed African girls, with their quaintly-told story of the sun, wind and moon, met with enthusiastic reception. The patron saints of the United Kingdom were accorded dignified and impressive treatment, while Miss De Vitre as "England," gave a noble rendering of "This Royal Throne of Kings," etc., from Shakespeare's Richard II. Mr. E. Knight ably worked the lime-light effects.

Admiral Eustace (the Mayor of Wokingham) contributed a happy speech, and said that parents were well advised in putting their boys and girls in the Guides or Scouts.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June

#### THE KING PASSES THROUGH WOKINGHAM

The King passed through Wokingham twice on Friday in last week on the occasion of H.M. visit to the Dairy Research Institute at Shinfield. The flags were flown on the Town Hall and several of the residents also expressed their loyalty in similar fashion. The scholars of Grosvenor School in Broad Street lined the frontage of the premises and displayed the Union Jack. The King graciously acknowledged the salutes and cheers of the residents.

#### HONOUR FOR WOKINGHAM MAN

His many friends in Wokingham congratulate Mr. William Alexander Elder (Alec), younger son of Mr. John Elder, late of Matthews Green, Wokingham, upon his receiving from the King the distinction of O.B.E., announced in the recent Birthday Honours List. Mr. W.A. Elder is Principal Veterinary Officer for Swaziland, South Africa. It will be remembered that some four or five years since Mr. J. Elder and family emigrated to South Africa, where Mrs. Elder has since died.

#### ANOTHER ACCIDENT IN PEACH STREET

About 4.45 P.M. on Friday, last week, Mrs. Kathleen Pearce, of 26, Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, was driving a motor car along Peach Street, near Easthampstead Road Corner, from the direction of Ascot, when a little boy, John West of 11, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, is said to have run out from behind a van. He was knocked down by the lady's car, which, it is stated, was travelling about five miles an hour. Mrs Pearce at once stopped, the lad was picked up and taken in the car to Dr. Ward, who advised the boy's removal to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, at Reading, which was done in the same car. Mrs. Pearce was so affected by the accident that she handed over the steering wheel to a friend, a gentleman travelling in the car. The little boy was severely injured in one knee, and received cuts upon the head, but no bones were broken. He will be detained in hospital for some weeks.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### BANK HOLIDAY FETE

The balloon competition at All Saints' Fete, on Bank Holiday, again proved a great attraction, and about 120 balloons were sent up. So far, about 50 postcards have been returned, 10 balloons having crossed the water into Belgium. One balloon was picked up in the sea off Dunkerque Lighthouse, another at Poplar Docks. Most of the balloons appear to have left these shores off [illegible] Isle. The final result will be

announced on August 20<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that the attendance at the fete reached over 8,000.

#### FIRE AT BRICKYARD

About 1.40 a.m. on Saturday morning a young man cycled into Wokingham in such haste as to be without his boots or coat, and stated that a fire had broken out at Amen Corner, at the premises of the Brick and Tile Company. Capt. Caiger and the brigade made a quick turn out. The staff had, however, subdued the fire which had originated by spontaneous combustion in a heap of "slag" coal. This had set light to the corner of an outbuilding. There are many buildings in close proximity, and a grave danger was averted by the labours of men with buckets of water.

#### PRESENTATION TO MR. HENRY BOWYER

At the presentation of prizes at the All Saints Fete on August Bank holiday, Mrs. Murdoch, on behalf of the fete committee, presented to Mr. Henry Bowyer a handsome clock, on which was inscribed "Presented to Mr. Henry Bowyer in grateful appreciation of his many kindnesses in connection with the All Saints', Wokingham, Parochial Fetes 1920-1925." The rector (the Rev. B. Long) on behalf of the committee, said how very grateful they all were to Mr. Bowyer for his generosity in lending the field each year, catering, providing hospitality to all who came to help in the various displays and sports and for many other kindnesses too numerous to mention, which he and his family so willingly rendered. I was not too much to say that without Mr. Bowyer's help and generosity the fetes for the six years would not have been so successful or so well carried out as they had been. Mr. Bowyer, in acknowledging the presentation, was accorded musical honours.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> September

#### BOYS' SCHOOL

It will be of interest to the district to hear that the residence and lands in Southlands Road, Wokingham (formerly "Battenhurst"), have been acquired (through the agency of J. Watts and Son) by Major A. F. St. Clair Stapleton, who is proposing to open a day school for boys from 7 to 15 years of age, under the name of "Kilwarlin," Wokingham. Major Stapleton has been engaged in educational work for over 26 years in preparatory schools and as a private teacher. He holds the highest testimonials. The school is situate in the convenient part of Wokingham, with grounds of over four acres, with excellent playing fields. This institution will no doubt be readily welcomed by the inhabitants.

#### AEROPLANE DOWN

Shortly before noon on Monday an aeroplane 'flew' very low over Wixenford, then turned and crossed the railway, and in Waterloo Road somewhat scared the residents who feared for their roofs. Eventually it came to earth in Mr. Colebrook's large meadow off the London Road. The machine was in charge of flying Officer F.O. Bassett, R.A.F., who was alone. It was a bomber on its way for delivery to the R.A.F. and came down owing to a burst radiator and water joint. An R.A.F. lorry with a squad of airmen was soon in attendance and a new radiator was delivered the next day. The machine itself and the repairing operations were watched with interest by some hundreds of people during its stay in the meadow.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October

On Wednesday General and Mrs. Clifton Brown made a number of visits in Wokingham, including the Poor Law Institution and the Nursing Homes.

#### ANCIENT DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

A "find" of considerable antiquity has been made at the Bush Hotel during recent operations of the workmen in the installation of the electric light to this old-world hostelry, the first in the town to adapt the modern system of electric lighting. Removing an old wood panelling in the bar, a fine antique stone chimney piece was discovered. The stone jambs stand some four feet high and support a stone lintel, which is carved with five large circles connected with double horizontal bands, and in each circle is the Tudor Rose. Masonry marks give the date as some 450-480 years back. We understand that the Rev. P.H. Ditchford, Rector of Barkham, has seen the find, in which he is very interested. There appears to be no doubt as to its antiquity. Above the mantel piece is an old brick archway.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

#### ALARM OF FIRE

On Wednesday morning Mrs. Jenkins was sitting at her window in Peach Street, when she saw some children opposite in South Place light a fire among the tarpaulin, cloths, and etc., that, with a G.P.O. linesman's truck, were standing on a waste piece of ground. The fire blazed up, and an alarm was given. The fire brigade turned up and the outbreak was quickly extinguished, or valuable tools, etc., might have been destroyed.

#### WOKINGHAM MAN ON THE M.1.

Rumours were rife that four Wokingham men had lost their lives in the disaster last week to Submarine M1. Fortunately this estimate proved incorrect as regards three of the men whose names were mentioned, but every sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jewell, of 33, Rose Street, in the loss of their son. Henry George Jewell, A.B., who went down with the ill-fated vessel. He only returned from leave the Monday previous to the Thursday's disaster. He joined the Navy as a lad in 1916, and had been on the Submarine M1 for two years. He served in the Great War on H.M.S. Barham. He had been living recently at Shepperton with his wife and two children, one a girl of nine years and the younger a little girl of five months old. Mrs. Jewell, his mother, attended the memorial service at Portland.

George Spratley, A.B., of East Heath, had a narrow escape, as he came off the M1 only four days before the disaster. He is now at home, on leave, and speaks with deep regret of having seen from one of H.M. ships the sinking of the M1, of whose reserve crew he was a member.

Able seaman Abraham Turner, now of Silchester, and brother to Mr. Charles Turner, of 25, Oxford Road, Wokingham, is serving on the Submarine L71. He at one time lived at Embrook, Wokingham. Rumour was busy with the names both of Seaman Spratley (who is not the Percy Spratley who perished with the vessel) and Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Manning of Rose Street, have no son in the Navy.

1926

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March

#### TENDERS

The Wokingham Board of Guardians have placed contracts as follows: Bread, Mr. A.T. Clements, Wokingham; groceries, Messrs. Colebrook and Co., Wokingham; drapery, Messrs. Mills and Co., London; haircutting, Mr. E. Stevens, Wokingham.

#### WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the local branch, Mr. W. Foster, hon. secretary gave a satisfactory report of the Study Circle terminal course. Mr. F.E. Pollard, the lecturer, is to be invited to take a year's course of 21 lessons on general economics, to commence in October.

#### HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The annual meeting was held in the Committee Room, Town Hall. Mr. M. Norris was elected chairman, and Mr. W. C. Fullbrook vice-chairman, Mr. A.H. Jones hon. treasurer, and Mr. A. Halfacre hon. secretary. It was reported that £155 was collected last year for the Royal Berks Hospital, the result of a number of varied activities. The current year's events were fixed as under Hospital Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>; Flower Day, Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### WOKINGHAM CONSERVATIVE GLEE SOCIETY'S GATHERING

The first social gathering organised by the above was held in St. Paul's Parish Room on Saturday. A party of over 40 spent a very pleasant evening, with games, dancing and music. Songs were sung by Miss E. Holland, Miss K. Newman, Miss Janes, Mrs Plumridge and Mr. House, while clarinet solos by Mr. Butler made a little variety. Mrs. W. Allan and Miss L. Webb shared the duties of accompanists, and for the dancing the whole party joined in "Sir Roger," which closed the proceedings. It is hoped to hold another gathering at an early date.

#### WOKINGHAM'S VICTORY

Wokingham F.C. qualified to meet Marlow in the final of the Henley Hospital Cup competition by their 3-2 victory over Thame on Saturday. For the greater part of the first half Wokingham enjoyed more of the play, Thame only occasionally making a break-away and at half-time they were leading 1-0. The second half was practically a repetition of the first, Wokingham having the better of the exchanges and, scoring two goals to their opponents' one, ran out winners by the odd goal in five. Wokingham were represented by the following eleven: Reed, Jones and Collins; Eymor, I. Kennedy and White; H. Kennedy; Trill, Hawkins, Potter and Sandford.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

With a view to assisting the organ renovation fund, the Young People's fellowship of Milton Road Baptist Church carried through an interesting programme at the Milton Road Schoolroom on Thursday evening last week. The programme included dainty dances by Miss Denton and Miss M. Denton, both pupils of Miss Vera White, of Reading. Miss Mary Jackson ably accompanying at the piano. All dances were given with much grace and artistic feeling. Miss Jackson opened the concert with a piano solo, a pastoral from "Nell Gwynn" (Edward German); Mrs. Denton sang "Give and Take" in her usual accomplished style; Miss Shearn sang sweetly "The Market" and "The Haven of Rest called Home"; Miss N. Butler gave much pleasure with recitations. Master Alan Griffith played two violin solos in good style, Mr. A.J. Griffith accompanying at the piano.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> April

### ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO

From the "Reading Mercury," April 15<sup>th</sup> 1776

A very large seizure of French brandy was, we are informed, last week, made in Surrey. The information was given by the landlady of a public house, to whom the smugglers had promised half a puncheon, but broke their word.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

From the "Reading Mercury," April 17<sup>th</sup> 1826

On Wednesday evening last the extensive paper mills of Mr. William and Joseph Wright, situated near the town of Great Marlow, were totally consumed by fire, together with the most extensive stock of paper which they perhaps ever contained.

### A LINK WITH WOKINGHAM OF THE PAST

Another link with the life of old Wokingham was severed on Easter Sunday by the death at a nursing home of Mrs. Elizabeth Harriet Basnett, widow of Thomas Basnett, who died in 1892. She was the third daughter of the late John Lamplow Roberts, who resided at one time at Montague House, Broad Street, Wokingham, a well-known and much respected county and civic magnate. Mrs. Basnett had reached the advanced age of 83 years. The funeral took place at All saints', Wokingham, the Rev. B. Long, the rector, officiating. The mourners were the two daughters, while others present included (list of names etc.)

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> May

### ANOTHER WHITE LINE WANTED?

On Sunday afternoon, a blue Renault car, belonging to Captain Mancet Jules of "Firwood," Camberley, and being driven by M. D'Eapery, Instructor at the R.M.C., Sandhurst, came into collision at the entrance of Milton Road, with a Ford car, owned by Mr. C. Wise, of 20, New Street, Henley, and driven by Mr. W. Berry, 76, Northfield Road, Henley. The five occupants of the Ford, including the driver were thrown into the road. Captain Jules' car was also considerably damaged in the front, and a child passenger in it sustained severe bruises on the face.

The question has been raised as to the necessity for a white line indication on this spot, as at Peach Street, Station Road, and elsewhere in the town.

### BRITISH LEGION AND THE STRIKE

On Friday evening last week the local branch of the British Legion held a meeting at the headquarters in Station Road, convened by rumours as to alleged expressions of disloyalty by some of its members during the recent crisis. The chairman, Admiral J.B. Eustace, J.P., said that when faced by the stern realities of life one pushed aside the wild talk of extremists on both sides. They needed no Bolshies, Fascists, Klu Klux Klan or any other secret society to rule and govern England. Ex-service men of every shade of political opinion had played their part in the general strike to obtain and maintain the daily bread in their homes. They said thank God the sailors, soldiers, airmen and police forces did their duty and were "true to their salt." They were deeply grateful also to the volunteers, who saw to it that all should be fed-strikers as well as others. Trade unions, employers-all were under the laws of the land, and under the British constitution there was even justice for all. He urged them as members of the British Legion to carry out their headquarters orders namely: to help the state in the preservation of law and order, and in protecting the lives and property of their fellow



countrymen from all aggression. He felt sure they had all tried to do that and in no way to bring discredit to their comrades of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion.

After a short discussion, initiated by General Wilkinson, the hon. secretary said he had not personally heard any rumour nor had the name of any member been given him, but he considered the matter should be disposed of by the branch. He submitted a resolution "that the members of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion reaffirm its pledge of loyalty to their King and country. Mr. F.A. Street seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> June

#### HOSPITAL COLLECTION

Since the counting, reported elsewhere, other boxes (out for a year), have been opened, as follows: Royal Exchange, 5s 0½d.; Mr. F. Langley, £1 6s. 7d.; Messrs. Heelas and Co. (Wokingham), £1 1s. 7½d.; while the Mayor kindly gave a donation of 10s. to make the amount up to £90, so that £100 0s. 5d. has been paid into the bank,-a most satisfactory result.

#### GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY ANNUAL SALE

The G.F.S. annual sale, arranged to be held on Thursday afternoon at the "Old House," the Terrace, by kind permission of Mrs. F. Piggott, was, owing to the weather, held in the clubroom. The opening ceremony was gracefully performed by Lady Liddell, introduced by the president, Miss E.M. Sturges, who welcomed her on taking part for the first time in the activities of their branch. Lady Liddell expressed pleasure at being able to come among so many old friends, and to help in some measure that most excellent society. She had heard much of the splendid branch at Wokingham. Among others present were the Mayoress of Wokingham, Mrs. Murdoch, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Annyatt, Mrs. Wescott, Mrs. And Miss Robinson, Mrs. G. Haye, Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Miss P.O. Watson, Miss Copley, Miss M.I. Ellison, the Lady Victoria Villiers, Mrs. T.W. Martin, etc. Doris Fowler handed a bouquet to Lady Liddell.

#### TRIBUTE TO RAILWAYMEN

The following address was, on Monday, presented to the stationmaster and certain men of the Southern Railway, by Admiral Eustace (Mayor of Wokingham), Brig.-Gen. Grant Wilkinson, Mr. Heelas and Mr. T.B. Pither, the Mayor reading the address: "to those men of the Southern Railway at Wokingham, who remained loyally at their work during the General strike in May 1926. The credit for the peaceful ending of the General Strike is largely due, among other causes, to the steadfast loyalty of some few brave men on our railway systems, who, despite much pressure and bad treatment, and attempts to boycott their wives and families, remained true to their salt, and refused to follow the leadership of certain seditious persons who tried to destroy England and her constitution. By remaining at their posts they gave their misguided comrades time to realise how serious it is to break a legal contract as well as to stop the daily bread of their own homes. We residents of Wokingham who have signed this letter are glad to show our admiration of those who were loyal to their homes. Loyal to their King, loyal to their country."

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> June

JOEL PARK

On Sunday the Wokingham Town Band (conductor, Mr. M.C. Bretler), played a capital selection of music in the evening at Joel Park, their first visit to this admirable addition to the town's open spaces.

#### PAGEANT OF EMPIRE

Through the kindness of Mrs. Hatherall, the summer meeting of the Wokingham and district branch of the League of Nations Union was held at Clare Court on Wednesday. A feature of the occasion was a Pageant of Empire display of children from Arborfield School, under Mr. W.J. Verrall (headmaster), Messrs. C.F. Meadowcroft and F.V. Randall (pianists), and Miss O.A. Barnfield, who trained them, Glee by the Wokingham Conservative Glee Party, conducted by Mr. S.C. Butler, were also enjoyed. Mr. Shelton's orchestra played selections. The Mayor stated that the membership of the branch was 250. Mr. A.G. Macdonell gave an address.

#### LABOUR PARTY MEETING

Mr. Drew (member of the Reading Board of Guardians) presided on Saturday evening over a Labour meeting, held in the Market Place, Wokingham. Dr. Somerville Hastings, ex-M.P. for Reading, was unavoidably absent. Mr. Wilson (Ruskin College, Oxford) and three other students were also present. The chairman announced the object of the meeting was to raise funds for the relief of the miners and their families, and the police had sanctioned a collection being taken for that purpose. Mr. Wilson advised his hearers to "take no notice of silly talk in the papers about red gold coming into England" in connection with the mining industry. The labour Party supported the principle that all men were brothers. The Trade Union movement was international and that was why the Russian Trade Unions were helping the miners of Britain, as the British Trade Unions had helped German strikers in Hamburg some years ago.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> July

#### LABOUR OUTING

The women's section of the Wokingham Labour Party arranged an outing for members and friends on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Cookham was reached via Windsor Park and Maidenhead in time for tea at the Clivedon Beach Hotel. Afterwards some of the party explored the beautiful gardens, while others went on the river.

#### DEATH OF MRS. STANILAND

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. F. Staniland, editor of the "Berkshire Gazette" in the death of his wife Mrs Annie Maria Staniland aged 74 years who passed away on Sunday evening at Kamakura, Gipsy Lane. Mrs. Staniland had been ill for almost a year. The funeral will take place at Wallingford Cemetery this (Friday) afternoon.

#### BOYS' CRICKET

Wescott Road Council School and St. Paul's School met on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. In the first match Wescott Road scored 29 and then dismissed St. Paul's for 16. G. Routledge and R. Lewis shared the wickets. In the return match Wescott Road, through the good innings of A. Trulock, captain (33), ran up 65 for five wickets and declared. St. Paul's were dismissed for 11, Lewis taking five wickets for two runs and Routledge five for eight. The fielding and catching of the Wescott Road boys was a feature of both games.

### TENNIS FOR GIRLS

On Monday the girls of Wescott Road were introduced to the pleasures of a tennis tournament on a hard court in a playground. Through the kindness of Miss M. Kent, three couples from the Milton Road Tennis Club played three couples from the school. The scores at the finish were six sets to three and 49 to 36 games in favour of the Milton Road club. Those taking part were: Milton Road Club, Mrs. O. Sale, Miss Lunn, Miss Brown, Miss Rogers, Miss Davies and Miss Whitlock: Wescott Road School, Misses M. Kent, M. Claydon, I. Hayes, D. Newberry, D. Blake and M. Mason. Refreshments were provided by the school.

### ST. PAUL'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH FETE

There were varied attractions at St. Paul's parochial Church Fete, held on Wednesday at "Beches," by permission of Mr. H. Pearson, and opened by Mrs. Martin Sutton. Plays, handbell ringing, glee singing, etc., were all included.

The stall holders were as follows:-

Fancy stall: Mrs H. M. Walter and Mrs. Dunne. Helpers: Mrs. Henlé, Mrs. Edward Heelas, Mrs. Haye, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Wakelam, Miss Tatham, Miss Curl, Miss Barry, Miss M. Ellison, Miss E. Barry, Miss B. Ellison, Miss Benson and Mrs. Noyes.

Sweet stall: Mrs. P.O. Watson. Helpers: Miss Cornish and Mrs. Warmsley.

Flower stall: Mrs. Frank Heelas. Helpers: Mrs. Teague, Mrs. Kimber, Miss Brant, And Miss Heelas.

Basket stall: Mrs. And Miss Harwood.

Sixpenny stall: Mrs. W. Lee and Mrs. Yalden.

Bran tub: Mrs. Bolton and Mrs. Martin.

Teas: Mrs. Mrs. Anslow, Miss Desbois and helpers.

Refreshment stall: The Lady Victoria Villiers. Helpers: Miss Villiers, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Garrett and Mr. Youdell.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July

### HEATHLANDS GARDENS OPEN

The privilege of visiting the beautiful gardens at Heathlands, Wokingham is again extended to the people by Mrs. Howard Palmer, who announces that they will be open on six successive Wednesdays, commencing next week, on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNERAL OF MRS. GEORGE HALL

On Sunday Mrs. Alice Charlotte Hall, widow of Mr. George Hall, of 78 Peach Street, passed away after a short illness, aged 62 years. She was a daughter of the late Mr. William Burrett, member of an old Wokingham family, and some 50 years ago the well-known blacksmith, of Peach Street, Wokingham. The funeral took place on Wednesday, the first portion of the service being conducted by the Rev. R. Martin Harvey (pastor) at the Milton Road Baptist Church. The internment was in the free Church Cemetery.

The mourners were Mr. Albert G. Hall (son), Miss Dorothy hall (daughter), Mrs. A.E. Ayers, Mr. W. E. Hall, Mrs. A.G. Hall.

### COUNCIL SCHOOL JOURNEY

On Saturday some sixty senior boys and girls of the Wescott Road Council School enjoyed a trip to Oxford by char-a-banc, accompanied by Mr. E.E. Browne (headmaster) and several of their teachers. A guide with a description of the journey was handed to each scholar on starting. A very informing and well-filled day was

greatly enjoyed by all. The journey commenced at 9 a.m., being accomplished via Reading, Pangbourne, Streatley, Wallingford and Dorchester. At the last named place a halt was made for an inspection of the famous abbey, the party being conducted round by the vicar's wife. At Oxford the party divided into groups for an inspection of the city, assembling again at 4.30 p.m. for tea. Leaving the Martyr's Memorial at 6.30 p.m., the return journey was made by Nettlebed, Henley, Wargrave and Twyford.

#### GIRL GUIDES' ENTERTAINMENT

By permission of the Misses Ellison, the local Girl Guides gave a delightful display on the lawn of The Elms, Broad Street, on Tuesday. Mrs Allan, at the piano, accompanied the songs and dances. Recitations were given by D. Fletcher and J. Fairs, while Freda Palmer contributed a song. A country play was given by Guide officers and members. The characters were taken by Miss Finch, Miss Palsford, P.L. M. Cooper, P.L.E. Wilson, Guide P. love and Guide E. Band. The staging gave excellent scope for some well-executed old English dances. The visitors included Mrs. F. Pigott, Mrs. Dyke Marsh, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. De Vitre, Miss Robinson, Mrs. W. Irving, Miss Speers, Mr. and Mrs. Canning, Rev. H. Farington Evans, Miss Fletcher, Mrs Benito, Rev. W.H. Wright, the Misses Ellison, Mrs. W.G. Jefferies, etc.

#### PALMER SCHOOLS

The annual distribution of certificates at the Palmer Schools, Wokingham took place last week. Among the visitors were the Rector and Mrs. Long, the Mayor (Admiral Eustace), Mr. F.E. Chapman and Commander and Mrs. Greenfield. Mr. Chapman read a letter from Mrs. Murdoch, in which she expressed her regret at being absent, and at the same time thanked Mr. Maidment and Miss Jones for their splendid care of the children. Songs were sung by the scholars and Mrs. Greenfield who has recently been appointed one of the managers, presented the certificates. The Rector, on behalf of the managers, said they were proud of their school, and congratulated the staff and scholars on their recent successes. Mr. Maidment (the headmaster) referred to the loyal and willing service of the staff, and in this connection particularly thanked Miss Jones and her staff for the excellent preparatory work done in the infants' department. He also expressed his appreciation of the work rendered so cheerfully by the school caretaker, Mr. Wheeler. On Saturday a party of 70 children and friends of the Palmer Schools visited Bognor.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### BAPTIST S.S. JUMBLE SALE

Organised by the teachers, a jumble sale was carried out on Wednesday in the Baptist Sunday School Room, Milton Road, and realised close upon £20 for the Sunday School funds

#### EVENING CLASSES

The local committee for evening classes have again arranged a comprehensive curriculum of subjects for evening classes, which include woodwork, English, commercial arithmetic, shorthand, book-keeping, elementary business practice, building construction and household cookery. The instructors will be respectively Mr. Heath, Miss Cole, Mr. E.E. Browne, Mr. H.M. Leurs and Miss Whitmarsh. Mr. E.E. Brown, Wokingham Council School, is the superintendent.

#### CONSERVATIVE OPEN-AIR MEETING

Under the auspices of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association a well-attended and successful open-air meeting was held in the Market Place on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. Mansfield was in the chair and the speaker was Mr. B. Billcliffe, whose address was received with much interest by the large assembly. On the "platform" was also Mrs. Watts (local hon. secretary). The chairman introduced the speaker who gave a resumé of the coal situation based upon the report of the Royal Commission, a copy of which he produced, and from which he quoted. The questions which were put to him and the occasional heckling to which he was subjected showed a real interest in the subject.

#### THE TERRITORIALS

The annual prize meeting of "D" Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks. was held on the Finchampstead range, some 50 members taking part. The results were: Company cup and first prize, Sergt. Byde; 2. Lce.-Cpl. Eamer; 3. Sergt. Wickham; 4. Lce.-Cpl. Hurdwell; 5. Pte. R.G. Taylor. The Godsall cup for recruits was won by Pte. Kew, closely followed by Ptes. Ellis and A. Gibbs. The Lewis gun cup had been previously won by Lce.-Cpl. Houlton, but Colonel Battcock's prize for the Lewis gun competition was won by Cpl. Marriner after shooting off a tie with Pte. Challis. The next three places were taken by Lce.-Cpl. Houlton, Cpl. Dance and Sgt. May. The silver table, dessert and teaspoons awarded for the best shoots on handicap in the company cup shoot were won by Ptes. Hobley, Watts and Knight.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### FOR THE BLIND

Special appeals for the National Institute for the Blind were made at St. Paul's on Sunday by the deputation, the Rev. H.E.C. Lewis, M.A., F.R.C.O., who is himself blind.

#### SPLIT TELEPHONE POLE

Telephone communication in some parts of Wokingham was interrupted on Thursday morning by a pole carrying wires at the corner of Gipsy Lane and Murdoch Road being damaged by a motor-car. Mrs Harris, of Hurst, who was driving a four-seater car with passengers down Easthampstead Road from the town, swerved to avoid William Peckham, who was cycling out of the side entrance to the residence of Mr. F.A. Simonds. The car struck the telephone post with such force that the top gear of wires, cups and traverses fell, splitting the pole down for about ten feet. The driver and other ladies in the car escaped injury, but Peckham was thrown from his bicycle and sustained injuries, which are not regarded as serious.

#### FRIENDSHIP WITH FRANCE

Captain Townroe (correspondent to "The Times") gave a lecture on Tuesday on "Our Friendship with France," a large audience assembling in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association. Mr. C. Mansfield presided. Captain Townroe, whose lecture was illustrated with lantern slides, said many of his audience had in the Great War fought side by side with French comrades, and admired the patriotism, patience and courage of the French troops. Leading men of both countries were warm friends. Without France and England being on terms together peace in Europe would not come about. Towards that end Sir Austen Chamberlain and the Conservative Government were striving. Mr. S. Hooper proposed and Mr. W.J. Cheeseman seconded, a vote of thanks to the

lecturer, who kindly bore the expense of his visit. Mr. Mansfield thanked Mr. Whaley for his loan of the lantern and Mr. F. Knight for his expert operating of it.

#### DEATH OF COMMANDER G.W. GREGORIE, R.N.

On Saturday evening there passed away at his residence, "Highfield," Milton Road, Wokingham, one who had figured prominently and with honour in the public life of Wokingham. He was Commander George Wayne Gregorie, R.N., one of the oldest of the links with Wokingham.

The gallant commander, whose tall, commanding figure up to a few years ago was familiar to all, was born on March 25<sup>th</sup> 18[illegible] He was son of Mr. Gregorie stipendiary for Westminster. His acquaintance with the sea began in 1849, when he received his first appointment as naval cadet. No training ships existed in those days, and he went direct from school to join the Navy. Those were the days of sailing ships only. In 1858 he took part in one of the picturesque movements of history, when on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Of that year, serving as lieutenant in H.M.S. Juno, he was detailed to conduct the migration of the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty (descendants of John Adams and his companions) from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific, the population having outgrown the smaller island. During this voyage, Arthur Quintal, descendant of Matthew Quintal—one of the original mutineers—wrote to Admiral Moresby:--

"The emigration is conducted by Acting Lieutenant Gregorie of H.M.S. Juno, whose untiring kindness and strict attention to our wants have recently endeared him to us. He is most indefatigable in his exertions to promote our welfare." (This quotation is from the book "Pitcairn," by the Rev. Boyles Murray, M.A., published in 1857.)

It is within the memory of many that in 1897 the late Commander Gregorie was visited by two of the Norfolk Islanders, tall, fine soldiers, who came over to take part in the military pageant of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. To them he gave the Bible of John Adams, with its records of the population of Pitcairn Island from its settlement.

The gallant commander's service in the Royal Navy covered the period of transition from sailing ship to steam-propelled vessels. He served in H.M.S.'s Juno, Indefatigable, Hannibla and Arrogant. In 1872, on account of failing health, he retired with the rank of commander. He then proceeded to keep his terms at Oxford, where he graduated B.A. with second class honours in law and history, and later entered as student in the Inner Temple, passing the qualifying examination for barrister, but the state of his health caused him to pass the rest of his days, which were many, in the privacy of country life.

Commander Gregorie married in January, 1860, Miss Harwood, only daughter of Mr. Harwood, of Deane, near Whitchurch, Southampton, and they celebrated their golden wedding in 1910. Mrs Gregorie predeceased him on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915. In a quiet way Commander Gregorie filled important positions and did excellent work in the religious, educational and philanthropic life of Wokingham. A devoted churchman, he filled many years the office of sidesman at All Saints. For 30 years he was correspondent for the Palmer Schools, where his keen interest secured several enlargements and greatly conduced to its present efficiency, and he promoted the formation and training of the school cadet corps and its band, both attaining remarkable efficiency. His house and grounds were ever open to any popular function to promote the general happiness, while his annual entertainment of the two local bands will long survive in grateful memory.

#### THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at All Saints' Church. The coffin of plain oak was draped with the Union Jack in accordance with the late Commander's wish.

(Details follow)

1927

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THE NEW FIRE ENGINE

The new up to date fire engine was delivered on Wednesday by the makers, Dennis Bros. of Guildford.

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE BUSY

The Fire Brigade, under their new Chief Officer, Captain W.B. Martin, received during December an exceptional number of calls, eight in all. These included an attendance at "Mertonford," the residence of Mr. Eric Simonds, and another at Shinfield grange; in each case a chimney had caught fire. There was a fire at Arborfield Manor, and a serious outbreak at the Angora Rabbit Farm, and a call was received to the Co-operative Stores, Market Place, Wokingham, where a joist under a hearth was alight. Other occasions included a fire in a motor garage at Mr. King's, baker, Binfield; a chimney on fire at "Russley," Finchampstead Road, while a petrol pump and a motor lorry burst into flames at the premises of the Gush Transport Co. premises at Yateley.

#### BRITISH LEGION'S CHILDREN'S PARTY

The sixth annual tea and party to war orphans and members' children was given by the local branch of the British Legion in their new hall on Saturday. There was a large attendance, some 160 children being present. The arrangements were in the hands of the sports committee, of which General M. Grant Wilkinson is the popular chairman and Mr. A. Andrews the hon. secretary. Mrs M. Webb was in charge of the tea, and there were numerous helpers. The hall was prettily decorated. The tea was a bountiful one, while crackers were provided. Games, etc., followed the tea, these being led by Mr. D. Goddard. Others who assisted with songs, etc., were Mr. Gerald Webb, Mr. "Wiffles" Westlake, Mr. P.H. Fuller, etc. Miss Edna Worrall's child songs and dances were greatly admired. A Christmas tree, given by the Marquis of Downshire and loaded with presents, completed the bill of fare, General and Mrs. Wilkinson superintending the distribution of the presents. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Admiral J.B. Eustace), J.P., and Mrs. Eustace, General A.H. Eustace, Miss Tatham, Miss Wakelow, Miss D. Sale, the committee and their friends. Later in the evening the annual members' social was held. Games and dancing were indulged in, and a capital programme was sustained by the artistes already named, also by Messrs. C. Thatcher, W. Sear and D. Goddard, the accompaniments being shared by Mrs. Sear, Miss M. Webb and Mr. P.H. Fuller.

#### FESTIVITIES AT WOKINGHAM

During the Christmas season the employees of Messrs. Sale and Son, the well-known seedsmen of Wokingham took part in two very enjoyable events organised by the directors. On Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, a cross-country paper chase was run, about 20 of the staff and their friends turning out. Messrs. S.E. and O.R.C. Sale went out as

“hares,” and the trail was taken up at an interval of five minutes by the ladies and five minutes later by the men. The course taken by the “hares” was an arduous one over rough country and through woods, approximately six miles being covered. With two exceptions all the runners finished the course. Tea awaited them on their return to Messrs. Sales Market Place premises. The winners were:-Ladies: 1, Miss W. Kennedy; 2, Miss E. Kennedy; 3, Miss D. Allan. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. W. Eggleton; 2, Mr. Kennedy; 3, Mr. D. Holland.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### EMBROOK WHIST DRIVE

On behalf of the funds of the Embrook Tennis club a successful whist drive was held on Tuesday. About 30 visitors attended. Mr. Herbert Knapp made a capable M.C. Prizes were won as follows—Ladies: 1, Miss K. Newman; 2, Mrs. Brown; 3, Mrs. G. Reed; consolation, Mrs. Evans. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Newman; 2, Mr. Knapp; 3, Mr. Soper; consolation, Mr. Turner. Mrs. Shave presented the prizes. Refreshments were ably managed by the committee of ladies.

#### WOKINGHAM (WITHOUT) PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council of Wokingham (Without) was held under the presidency of Mr. H. Goswell (chairman). There was also present Councillor A. Rasey (vice-chairman), Councillors H.E. Bennett, C. Bowyer, J. Chutter and E. Vass, and the clerk (Mr. A.E. Hall). A lengthy discussion arose upon the proposed diversion of the footpath from Barkham Road to Sandy Bottom. A resolution was carried strongly protesting upon the proposal, the protest to be sent to the Rural District Council. The appointment was made of the salary of the assistant overseer between the Rural District Council and the Wokingham (Without) Parish Council. This was done by resolution: £190 by the Rural District Council and £10 from the Parish Council of Wokingham (Without).

#### RESULTS OF CHRISTMAS GOODWILL

Members and former members of all Saints' Choir, Wokingham, performed a most kindly action on Saturday Afternoon by entertaining to tea and an entertainment 101 children in the Concert Hall of the Wokingham Club. The entertainment had during the Christmas season sung carols, and as one result of their efforts had presented the local Clinic with the handsome sum of £25. With a balance, they decided upon the treat to the children. Ladies who assisted at the tables were Mesdames T. May, G. Holloway, G.H. Breach, J. Liddiard and J. Liddiard, jun., and the Misses House. Members of the carol party were Messrs. T. May, G.H. Breach, F.W. Evans, G. Holloway, J. Liddiard, S. berry and W. House. Miss C. Breach, A.T.L.C. played pianoforte selections during tea. Each child was given a paper cap on entering the hall, and on leaving received an orange and a coloured balloon. Mr. Leonard H. Webb, of Three Mile Cross, gave a splendid entertainment of conjuring and ventriloquism.

#### DEATH OF MR. CHARLES HUCKINGS

Much regret is felt at the death of Mr. Charles Huckings at his residence, 14, Langborough Road, Wokingham, on Wednesday, at the advanced age of 86 years. Some 50 years back the late Mr. Huckings came to Wokingham from Camberley, and was for ten years in the employ of the late Mr. Thomas Manley Wescott at the Saw



Mills, Peach Street. He was a skilled carpenter and joiner. He married the daughter of the proprietor of the glass and china store, 39, Market Place, where he resided for several years. In his younger days he was a local preacher for the Wesleyans. He did not take further part in public life except that for some years he was (in the company with the present Captain Caiger) a member of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade. During the past few years he had retired from active work, and his familiar figure will be much missed. Mrs. Huckings survives him, with their complete family of two sons and four daughters. The funeral is to take place on Tuesday at All saints.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April

#### MOTOR CLUB FORMED

Motorists of Wokingham decided at a meeting held at Bush Hotel to organise themselves and formed the Wokingham and District Motor club, with the Bush Hotel as headquarters. Mr. Alan Perkins was elected chairman; Mr. Ganson, hon. treasurer; Mr. T.A. Hatfield, hon. secretary; and Mr. J. Lewis, captain. The subscriptions were fixed at members, 10s 6d.; associates, 5s.; and cars, £1 1s. A further meeting is to be held.

#### THE CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The second annual jumble sale and concert of the above was held on Saturday. The goods found ready purchasers—a credit to the ladies committee of the society. Mr. F.W. Mattingley, the hon. secretary was very busy as the organiser of the variety concert which followed the sale. Mr. P. Fuller at the piano both entertained the audience and acted as accompanist, the latter duty being shared with Mrs. Lear. The artistes were popular local performers and included Messrs. D. Goddard, B. Dicker, Westlake, Townsend and E.R. Thatcher in songs and monologues, Messrs. Thatcher and Goodeve in sketches, and Miss Marjorie Sharp, etc.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April

#### AIR CRASH AT WOKINGHAM

Narrow Escapes

#### A MOTHER'S ANXIETY

A mother's anxiety for her son's safety led to her arrival on the scene just after the aeroplane bearing him crashed to earth at Homefield, Wokingham, on Saturday.

The mother, Mrs. Garland, a well-known horsewoman, of Barkham Manor, was riding on horseback to Wokingham, when she had a feeling that her son, who was taking part in the local "Air Week," would meet with an accident. After she had ridden a short distance her presentiment was confirmed by passers-by, who stopped her and told her that the machine had crashed. She hurried on, and on arriving at the flying field she saw the wrecked aeroplane lying on its back on the grass. Mrs. Garland found her son, Mr. Victor Garland, in The Three Frogs Inn, Wokingham, in a dazed condition, but otherwise unhurt.

Mr. Garland, fortunately, had a remarkable escape from injury, as did also the pilot of the machine, Mr. Leslie H. Lewis, and another passenger, Mr. Albert Twitchin, of The Three Frogs, Wokingham.

The plane, an Avro pleasure machine, had come to Wokingham for the Easter holidays, was giving circular flights at 5s. each, and had just started on the first trip when the mishap occurred.

Snapped in Two Pieces

The machine had taken off well and had ascended to a height of about 40 feet when the engine suddenly stopped. As a result the plane crashed to earth, turned a complete somersault flinging the occupants out of their seats, and snapped in two pieces.

Spectators at once rushed to the wrecked plane to extricate the men, who were partially stunned. On the handbills advertising the flights, which were headed "Safety flying for all," it was announced that Mr. Garland, who was described as a film actor, would walk along the wings of the machine when in full flight.

Mrs. Garland was strongly opposed to her son's proposal to perform such feats, and was most anxious for him. So great was her fear that he would be hurt that she set out in fact for the scene of the flight.

#### Petition of Protest

Flights were to have been made in the aeroplane on Good Friday, but in response to a petition organised by the local branch of the C.E.M.S. and signed by a large number of Wokingham residents, protesting against the proposal, Mr. Lewis refrained from so doing. A large number of people who visited Wokingham during the weekend to take advantage of the flights returned disappointed.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE TERRITORIALS

Sergt.-instructor T. T. Tanner, of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment, in Germany, is the new sergeant-instructor of "D" Company, Berks. Territorials, Wokingham. He holds 32 trophies for athletics.

#### NEW FIRE ENGINE FIRST USED

On Saturday, the new motor fire engine, "Reliance," was used for the first time at a call of fire, by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, who, with Engineer F. Knight in charge, responded to a call at the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Harris St. John, D.S.O., J.P., at Finchampstead. The outbreak was a heath fire, and as no water was near and a broad road lay between the house and the blaze, the brigade did not get to work at pumping. It is a coincidence that the first call in which the predecessor of the "Reliance"-the "Swift"- was first used should have been within half a mile of the same place.

#### "THE IMPS" AND THE CLINIC

A successful dance was given in the Drill Hall in aid of the Wokingham Clinic. The organising committee consisted of the Misses V. Wilkinson and K. Blackman, Messrs. F. Moles, G. Plaster and G. Ballard, and Miss C. Dearlove (hon. secretary). The band of the 17, 21<sup>st</sup>. Lancers was in attendance. Over 100 dancers took part. Mesdames Stoneman, Langley, Atkins, Pearce and Brazier managed the refreshments. Those taking tickets and attending included General Sir Walter Cayley and Lady Cayley, Brigadier-General M. Grant Wilkinson, Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Wilkinson, Miss Blakeney, the Misses Greenfield, and Mr. H.S. Hooper (president).

#### BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILKINSON

The king has appointed Brigadier-General Sir Smith Hill Child, Bart., to be a gentleman usher in ordinary in the room of Brigadier-General Montagu Grant Wilkinson, resigned; and Brigadier-General Montagu Grant Wilkinson to be an extra gentleman usher to his Majesty. Brigadier-General M. Grant Wilkinson has resided now for some years at Markham House, Broad Street, Wokingham, and has made himself very popular in the district as a first class amateur actor, ever ready to place

his talents at the disposal of worthy causes, to wit the Orthopaedic Clinic, British Legion, etc., of which last named he is an active, efficient and energetic member.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June

#### LABOUR MEETING

Arranged by the local Labour Party, an open-air meeting was held in the Market Place on Saturday evening. The chairman was Mr. L. Bryce (secretary of the University Labour Association). Mr. F.A. Broad, Labour M.P. for Edmonton, was the speaker, who expounded the Socialist agricultural programme.

#### ILL-LUCK OF AIRMAN

Mr. A.L. Lewis, pilot of "The Jake." (the flying machine which crashed at Wokingham on April 16<sup>th</sup>), after the machine had been reconstructed at The Three Frogs, Wokingham, again took to the air on Tuesday, but was once more the victim of unfortunate circumstances. Ascending in the afternoon from Mr. Colebrook's meadow, London Road, he circled round, then took off in the direction of Bill Hill. When it had travelled a mile and reached a height of 200 feet, observers saw that the machine was descending. The machine tore through a five-strand wire fence, tearing up or breaking off five of the posts, finally coming to rest in the middle of a chicken-run at Cantley, the residence of Mr. P.O. Watson. Not a fowl was injured, and the pilot and his two passengers, Mr. Percy Ashdown and Mr. Collier, beyond a shaking, escaped injury. The propeller had one arm broken off, the wings were damaged by the wire, and the under part of the machine was broken.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade are issuing an appeal with a view to clearing off the last £100 due upon the new engine.

#### MOTHERS' UNION OUTING

Members of the Wokingham branch of the Mothers' Union travelled in two char-a-bancs to London on Monday, and visited Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union, also the zoo and other sights of London. The party was accompanied by Mrs. J.B. Eustace.

#### PROPOSED NEW BOWLING CLUB AND GREEN

A meeting was held on Monday to consider the advisability of forming a Bowling club for Wokingham and district. Mr. E. C. Hughes presided. Mr. G. Jenkins outlined a scheme, and stated that Mr. Hughes had a piece of land which he was willing to part with on reasonable terms. A committee was formed to go into the matter. Mr. Jenkins said he had received promises of about £200 towards the laying out of the ground.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July

#### NEW POSTMASTER

Mr. W.C. Lucas, recently postmaster at Abingdon has been appointed postmaster at Wokingham.

#### A SCHOOL JOURNEY

On Saturday the upper scholars of the Wescott Road Council School enjoyed the pleasure of a school journey with the intention of furthering their knowledge and appreciation of the history and geography of our country. Mr. E.E. Browne, the

popular headmaster, was in charge, and some 60 scholars with their teachers made the tour in char-a-bancs. A neat itinerary with time-table and map was supplied. A start was made from the school at 8.30 a.m., the route taken being Basingstoke, Winchester, Romsey, Salisbury (where tea was served) and Stonehenge. The trip afforded great pleasure to all.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sept

**WOKINGHAM FATALITY**  
Popular Sportsman killed  
**COLLISION WITH HORSE**

A well-known Wokingham sportsman, Mr. Reginald Howard Mattingley, aged 26, of 18, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, received fatal injuries in a motor-cycle accident on Saturday evening. He was travelling from Reading to Wokingham with a pillion passenger, and in approaching the railway bridge near St. Paul's Church he appears to have collided with a horse, which resulted in he and his companion being thrown off. The pillion rider only received minor injuries, but Mattingley received severe fracture of the skull, from which he died about three hours later in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Mr. Reginald Mattingley was the third son of the late Mr. Frederick Mattingley, the well-known football referee. He was a devotee of motor-cycling, and rode a Scott machine. A well-known figure in Wokingham, he was a grocer's assistant the local branch of the Reading Co-operative Society, and was greatly respected by the manager and his colleagues, and by the management at Reading. He was a member of the British Legion Club, Wokingham, of the Wokingham Lawn Tennis club, and of the Peach Street Boys' Club. His brother, Mr. F.W. Mattingley, is the efficient secretary of the Wokingham Cage Bird Society.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> September

**TROOPS IN WOKINGHAM**  
Dorsets Beat "The Retreat."  
**INHABITANTS WELCOME THE TROOPS**

The sudden cessation of the military manoeuvres on account of bad weather, and the decision of the authorities that Bill Hill camp, Wokingham, being on clay soil and waterlogged, occupied an untenable site for night camping, had the effect of converting Wokingham to all intents and purposes into a garrison station. Promptly upon the order "Back to Aldershot" the homeward movement began, and Friday last week saw its commencement, with men, horses and guns, tanks and service wagons, passing daily in unending stream through the town. The tanks, never-failing objects of interest to the thronging crowds, passed via Oxford Road and Wellington Road, and thus avoided the streets, but all the other forces journeyed via Broad Street and Denmark Street to Finchampstead Road. The mud freely plastered on men, horses and wheels afforded eloquent testimony of the discomforts of the "battle" area, and some of the earlier arrivals, whether human or equine, showed evident signs of fatigue.

On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade marched through the town from Nettlebed and continued their way to Aldershot, completing the long march in the day. The military stream abated not on the Sunday, the morning being taken up with the passage of horse traffic. During the afternoon the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade arrived from Nettlebed. Accommodation for these was provided in the town and in adjacent farms, etc. Children of the Baptist Sunday School, Milton Road, found the gates of their school closed to them, the building being occupied by a company of the Royal West Kent

Regiment. The school books, etc., were carried off by the scholars to the lecture room opposite, to make room for the visitors.

The troops were billeted in the British Legion Hall, where a cordial welcome awaited them, in the Town Hall, Drill Hall, Church House, and in the outbuildings attached to private residences. On Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade arrived in the afternoon, and after a dinner halt only at Bill Hill camp, this smart brigade was entertained in the same manner as its predecessors. A battalion occupied Keep Hatch and adjacent farms. Many soldiers found quarters in the open shelter shed at the Palmer School playground, and on "Reveille" being sounded on Tuesday morning, a nearby cottage resident supplied them all with a cup of tea each – a typical illustration of the kindly spirit animating the inhabitants towards the soldiers. The unusual spectacle of the billeted troops drew large crowds of residents into the Market Place, where field cookers, orderly room, guard, Q. M. S.'s stores and other military establishments were to be seen in every-day operation. Officers on Sunday were quartered in the Wokingham Club, and on Monday "The Bush" was occupied by the General in command and his staff.

On Monday evening a thrilling and (for Wokingham) unusual spectacle was provided when the drums, fifes and bugles of the Dorset Regiment beat "The Retreat" in Broad Street. This fine, spacious thoroughfare in the centre of the town was closed at each end by Supt. Goddard, and kept by military police, providing an admirable parade ground. The band marched and counter-marched with full military display and with the most impressive effect concluding with the National Anthem, followed by the salute.

The sounding of the "Reveille" at 5.34 a.m. and of the "Last post" at 10 p.m. daily added to the military aspect of the town.

The martial sights and bands (especially the music of the bands) were followed with delight by the whole population.

The town's war memorial, the Clinic, in Denmark Street, was placed at the disposal of the military, and was used as a route station each day.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### THE EXTENDED BOROUGH

The sight of the Union Jack, in company with the municipal flag, flying mast high from the Town Hall buildings on Saturday morning indicated that the Borough of Wokingham had attained de facto its extension. The "appointed day" under the provisional order had arrived, and Wokingham had annexed five times its then area, and an increase of 59 per cent in population. The amenities of urban life will be ensured, at first in the added area by means of a vacuum tank until drainage schemes shall be completed. Candidates for the ten vacancies to be filled on the enlarged Council are doubtless busily employed upon their election addresses. The day of the nomination will probably be the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> next, with polling (if necessary) as usual on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sat 12 Nov

#### VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

The Victoria County History books were completed.

#### FIRE BRIGADE, NEW OFFICERS

At a recent meeting of the Wokingham Fire Brigade Captain Weston B. Martin (with 37 years service) was elected Captain, vice captain Caiger deceased, and

engineer F. Knight (32½ years service) was appointed in each case unanimously. Firemen H.J. Painter and E.P. Osmond were appointed to be engineers.

#### TOWN HALL

Elected: Honorary Constables: E. Jeffrey, W.J. Pearce, and H. Dyer. Town Crier: H. Banks. Sergt.-at-Mace: C. Sparkes.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GIFT OF OLD DOCUMENT

Alderman P. Sale announced that the town clerk had recently received from a Miss Eagan-he did not know whether she was an old resident of the town, or the relative of a resident-an interesting document printed on silk, giving a programme of a ploughing match held by the Wokingham Agricultural Association in Holybush Meadow, Barkham Road, in the first week in October, 1836. Even in those days there were prizes for the improvement of agricultural labourers and servants in the parish of Wokingham, Finchampstead, Barkham, Arborfield, Swallowfield, Hurst and Ruscombe, a very considerable area. The document stated that the patron of the association was His Most Glorious Majesty King William IV. Although it was so long ago as ninety years, yet the amount of the prizes or premiums as they were termed, was not really very different from those offered today. The amount for a first prize was £2. In those days apparently agricultural labourers or servants were not trusted with the cash for the prize-winners received clothing to the value of the amount awarded. (laughter). He did not see that the association gave prizes in those young days for anything else other than the various operations in animal husbandry, for which men, boys and females employed as agricultural servants competed. There was apparently no root show in those days.

He thought it was very good of Miss Eagan, who, so far as he knew had no connection with Wokingham, to send them such an interesting old document, and he proposed the gift be accepted with the best thanks of the council.

This was agreed to.

Replying to Councillor Chapman the Mayor said the document would be added to the archives of the town.

Alderman Martin said he hoped that some day they would have a room which they could use as a museum and display their treasures and other interesting documents.

## 1928

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN F.C. The Ground Secured TRIBUTE TO MR. A.H. JONES

The Wokingham Town Football Club has acquired its ground. The matter was referred to at this meeting of the Wokingham Town Council on Thursday.

#### A Cordial Resolution

Councillor F.S. Perkins moved the following resolution:--“The Town Council, representing the inhabitants of this borough of Wokingham, congratulates and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Arthur H. Jones for his successful and arduous efforts in acquiring the Wokingham Town Football Club ground in

Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, for the use of this ground for sport for this and future generations." In moving the resolution Councillor Perkins mentioned that football was played on the ground over 50 years ago. Mr. Jones had been intimately associated with the ground for over 38 years. In September, 1924, the football club were informed that its ground was to be sold, and Mr. Jones, who was secretary, thought out a scheme for purchasing the ground, and a contract was signed for £900. Mr. Jones then had to go to hospital, where for six months he was ill, and during a part of that period seriously ill. On leaving the hospital he again attacked the problem, and between March, 1925, and last Christmas he raised the whole amount necessary by means of subscriptions, whist drives, concerts and collecting pennies from people week by week. In face of many discouragements and limitations he carried the scheme through from start to finish, and was a public benefactor and a great citizen. (Hear, hear). The value of the field as an additional playing space for perpetuity need not be emphasised, and as time went by its value as an asset to the town would increase. The satisfaction Mr. Jones obtained from his work was the fact that the ground would be appreciated by all the young men of this and future generations who would be enabled to indulge in healthy sport, ensuring greater entertainment of mind as fellow citizens of the borough, and an improvement in their physique as subjects of their King and Empire. (Hear, hear).

#### Councillor Chapman's Plea

Councillor Chapman, in seconding the motion, said he was keenly interested in the playing fields movement, and he wanted to see that everyone who wished to play a game should at least have a ground upon which he could play. He wished people would take a personal interest in the doings of the younger generation and in their games. No only had a football ground been secured for the generations to come, but they had a cricket ground also. The football ground had been used for 50 years, but the cricket ground had been used for that game for over 100 years. It would be a short-sighted policy if the people of Wokingham ever allowed that ground to be built over. Mr. Jones was a keen supporter of all that was of interest to the younger people of the town, particularly of football and cricket.

Alderman Hughes, as president of the football club, endorsed all that had been said. Mr. Jones deserved the hearty congratulations and thanks of all for the great service he had rendered.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### LECTURE SOCIETY

In the Town Hall on Wednesday, a lecture was given by Miss Mabel Steedman, F.R.G.S., on "Cowboy Trails from Pike's Peak to Mexico." The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides. Major-Gen. Sir Walter Cayley, K.C.M.G., presided.

#### FOOTBALL CLUB

A successful whist drive and dance was held on Wednesday, under the auspices of the Wokingham London Road Football club. The M.C.'s were Mr. A. Brant for the whist and Sgt.-Major G. Saunders for the dancing. The prizes for the whist were subscribed for by supporters of the club. The Syncopated Savannah Dance Orchestra supplied the music.

#### THE TOWN BAND

The adjourned annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Band was held on Tuesday, Mr. W.J. White presiding. A re-organisation scheme was adopted, which it is believed will lead to greater efficiency. Officers elected were: Hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Harrison;

hon. secretary, Mr. F. Every; committee, Messrs. F. Woods, W.J. White, F. Pierce and Weeks; deputy bandmaster, Mr. R. Milsom.

#### CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

--Another interesting discussion took place on Monday Evening in the Small Town Hall. Capt. C.R.P. Henderson gave an instructive address on the Empire, and several members of the audience joined in the discussion which followed. The chairman, Mr. C. Mansfield, said he thought such meetings did a lot of good, and hoped that more members would join in the discussions.

#### TERRITORIAL DANCE

The Saturday night dances of the local Territorial Company are now an established feature of the town, and the attendances show an increase at almost every dance. On Saturday no less than 160 people were present, this being a record for a Saturday night, and included Major Hughes, the O.C. of the company, and Lieut. G.S. Ford, D.F.C., one of its officers. The new grand piano recently purchased by the company is a decided acquisition.

#### FURNITURE SALE

Messrs J. Watts and Son, Auctioneers, opened their new sale room at 12, Milton Road, Wokingham, recently erected by them to enable better facilities to be given for display of lots and convenience of buyers, and attracted a large and representative number of buyers at their sale on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, when 360 lots of furniture were disposed of. red Chinese lacquer cabinet realised £20, a mahogany china cabinet £7, a mahogany Chippendale chair £6, a pair of ebonised cabinets £21, a library table £10 10s., Ironstone dinner service £12 10s., a Sheraton bookcase £26 and other lots at equally good prices.. These new sale rooms which accommodate a considerable amount of furniture, were designed by Mr. Donovan Watts, and built by Mr. F. Langman.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March

#### FELLING A TREE

An unusual sight was witnessed on Saturday when a large chimney stack was felled at the site of the old saw mills. Mr. Denton who is developing the grounds as a building site and has laid out Denton Road connecting Easthampstead Road with Sturges Road directed a group of his own workmen in the operation. The stack consisted of 125 [?] courses of bricks and its height was approximately 57 feet.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July

#### DEATH OF FORMER RESIDENT

Mrs. T. Morris (née Fennell) at one time a well-known and respected resident of Wokingham, recently died of cancer, in Australia.

#### A RARE BIRD

A male specimen of the Hoopoe recently arrived at Mr. F.W. Mattingley's, the prominent bird fancier's, in Reading Road. Owing to the delicacy of its nature the bird was not sent by water, but made the trip from Hamburg by air to Croydon, thence by rail. It is believed to have been the first of its kind in captivity in this country. The Hoopoe has since died.



### THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade has been very busy recently. On July 19<sup>th</sup> a call was answered to Blue Mountain Farm at Binfield, where some outbuildings were burnt down. The following day, about 7.10 p.m., the brigade went to the Wellington Hotel, where rubbish in the stokehole had caught alight and had set fire to laths and rafters. At 12.5 a.m. on Monday a call was responded to from Moss End, Warfield, where two sheds used by cottagers near were discovered alight. A motor-cycle, two pedal bicycles and some tools were destroyed.

### PALMER SCHOOL TREAT

By the kindness of Mr. C. Mansfield, Mr. Garnett and Mr. Wallis the Palmers School treat was held on Wednesday at the playing fields at Wixenford. The Fire Brigade under Captain W.B. Martin boiled the water for tea with their engine. Friends of the school who sent conveyances included Mr. R.H.R. Palmer (2), Mr. E.C. Hughes (2), Mr. Collingbourne, Mr. Colgate, Mr. H. Bowyer, Mr. C. Bowyer, Messrs. Herring Bros., the Wokingham Laundry Co., Messrs Minchin Bros., Mr. W.G. Jeffries and Mr. E.W. Reeves. Wokingham Town Band, as usual, played the school home in the evening. Upwards of 400 children took part. Under Mr. H.F. Maidment, Miss Jones and the staff a capital sports programme was carried out.

### WOKINGHAM GIRL IN AIR RACE

Miss Winifred Spooner, the only woman pilot in the King's Cup air race, who won the J.D. Siddeley trophy for club members of various flying clubs, and was third in the race for the King's Cup, lives at Wokingham. The Siddeley trophy carries with it an award of £150, and the third prize in the King's Cup in £50 (presented by the Blackpool Tower Company).

Miss Spooner was warmly congratulated by everyone on her success. She had a very difficult time, like the other pilots, during the night in getting over the hills from Newcastle to Glasgow. She led the competitors over the first three obstacles in the second circuit, but between Bristol and Lympne she dropped to second place, and from the last-named place to Brooklands Motor track, the finishing point, she was overtaken by the runner-up. Her total flying time was 13 hours 9 minutes 15 seconds, and her average speed 83½ miles an hour.

A member of the London Flying Club, Miss Spooner has also joined the newly-formed Berks, Bucks and Oxon, Aeroplane Club. She has held a pilot's certificate about a year, and has done nearly 200 hours solo flying.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> August

### ST. PAUL'S DAY SCHOOL TREAT

Scholars of St. Paul's Day School were given their annual summer treat last Friday week. Tea was served in the school after which the scholars, led by the Town Band (who had played during tea) under Mr. S.A. Griffin, marched to the rectory lawn where sports and games were played. There were also daylight fireworks.

### SUCCESSFUL CHURCH FETE

At a special meeting of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council, the proceeds of the recent fete were apportioned to various funds. The profit was £131 8s. 0d and was disposed of as under:- Churchwarden's fund, £25; Additional Curate fund £25;

Diocesan fund, £15; lesser grants, £10 and £5. A balance of £22 8s. 0d. was placed in the Rector's General Purpose fund. The Rector thanked Mr. A.E. Priest, the hon. secretary for his services.

#### GOLDEN WEDDING

Fifty years ago, on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1878, Mr. Devonshire Penrose Hawkes was married to Miss Sarah Popham Horsford at Timoleague Church, Co. Cork, Ireland. There were 200 guests, and the whole population kept holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkes on Wednesday quietly celebrated their golden wedding at their home, Embrook House, Wokingham. They received several gifts, also numerous congratulatory telegrams. Mr. Hawkes is now approaching his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. They have two sons and two daughters.

#### ANOTHER COLLISION WITH BROAD STREET LAMP

On Monday evening Mr. N.A. Sharp, of Swallowfield, when driving a car along Broad Street towards the Town Hall collided with the central street lamp opposite the residence of Mr. E.H. Perkins. The front part of the chassis, the wing and front axle were damaged, and Miss Ivy Bryant, of Tilehurst, a passenger, received injuries which included concussion and injury to the left eye and leg. The injured lady was taken to Mr. Perkins' residence, and Dr. Chapman, who was called, attended her injuries. She was later conveyed home, and is progressing favourably.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE

The fire brigade have just purchased twelve 50 ft. lengths of new hose pipe at a cost of £70.

#### OUTING

On Wednesday the staff of Mr. Jefferies, coal merchant of Wokingham and Crowthorne, accompanied by their wives were taken for an outing to Southsea. After a pleasant tour of Southsea and the Dock yards, where Navy Week is being observed, the party, numbering 19, were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies at the Corner House Café, Portsmouth.

#### LIMELIGHT DANCE FOR HOSPITAL

The limelight dance held on Saturday night in the Drill Hall by the Wokingham Hospital Committee was a pronounced success, and reached the record for the dances organised by this committee. The profit is estimated at £8. The M.C.s were Messrs. G.W. Ballard (chairman) and Mr. F. Moles, while the hon. secretary is Mr. G. Gough of Embrook. The Territorial authorities lent the hall free of charge.

#### WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS IN CAMP

"D" (Wokingham) Co., 4<sup>th</sup> Batt. The Royal Berkshire Regiment, under Brevet Major A.C. Hughes, T.D. Lieut. J.S. Ford, D.F.C., second Lieut. C.W. Booth and Second Lieut. C.F. Watson, returned to Wokingham from annual training at Swanage on Sunday.

The company was favoured with the weather during camp, and though some found the going rather heavy, most agreed, after excellent night operations on a most realistic scale on Friday night last week, when D Co., in conjunction with the rest of

the battalion and brigade, scaled the heights of Ballard Down, which were taken by a gallant bayonet charge at dawn, that on the whole had been a most enjoyable camp.

Bathing and the usual delights of a seaside resort were indulged in on the beautiful Dorset coast, and the tanned and bronzed faces of all ranks, as they marched, with band playing from Wokingham Station to the Drill Hall, testifies to that most beneficial of all holidays, where work and play are so happily blended—a Territorial camp.

Before leaving camp the Company bade farewell to Colonel Battock, C.B.E., T.D., who retires this year, with three hearty cheers and musical honours. The Colonel has endeared himself to all by his great personality, energy and consideration during his long command, and it was a touching moment when the band struck up “Auld Lang Syne” as “C” and “D” Companies marched off.

It seemed a day of leave-takings, for Major Hughes, who has held every rank from private to major, is shortly leaving “D” Co. to take over the position of second in command, and there was nothing staged or rehearsed about the cheers (called for by Mr. Ford) which greeted him on his dismissing the Company for the last time at the Drill Hall on Sunday evening.

Throughout camp “D” Co. maintained its usual high standard of efficiency both on the parade ground and in the field winning the prize for the best-kept mess tent, and a considerable amount of praise from the brigade commander. The crowds which lined the streets and station yard on the Company’s return showed the interest taken by the ancient town of Wokingham in its Territorials, an interest which is greatly appreciated.

“D” Co. was fortunate in having with it in camp this year C.S.M. Brant who though on the retired list, has taken a new lease of life and has come back again.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sept

#### DEATH OF OCTOGENARIAN

Mr. Samuel Smallbone, a resident, passed away on Saturday at the advanced age of 84 years, at No. 27, Denmark Street, the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Weston B. Martin, captain of the Wokingham Fire Brigade. Mrs. W.B. Martin is the only child of Mr. Smallbone, who for 25 years was at Pike’s Farm, the Home Farm of the Bill Hill Estate, under the late Mr. and Mrs. Leveson-Gower. He retired some years back, and residing in the town was a well-known member of the Wokingham Club, and of St. Paul’s Church. The funeral took place on Wednesday at St. Paul’s Church, the rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, officiating.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### FIRE IN DENMARK STREET

At the early hour of 2.20 a.m. on Tuesday, the fire brigade received a call, and with prompt response were, within five minutes, at work on a fire in a top room of No. 19, Denmark Street, recently occupied by Mr. Hopkinson, greengrocer, who had moved out only the previous day. The fire broke out in a top bedroom and had burned through the floor, and had also, through the ceiling, reached the roof. In about an hour’s time the fire was extinguished. The first-aid fire appliances carried on the engine again proved invaluable, the brigade being able to start operations while connecting the engine up with the hydrants. Some damage by water was done to the stock on the premises, in addition to the injury by fire to the building.

#### DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN AUTHORESS

Miss Arabella Maud Hopkinson, a well-known literary lady of repute, died on Sunday at her residence. "The Glebe," Rectory Road, Wokingham, at the advanced age of 85 years. Miss Hopkinson, some years ago, was a well-known and appreciated authoress, her works including "Sweet Chistopher," "Pardon," "The Soldier's Inheritance," "Waiting, and others. She was a well-known contributor to "The Church Times and "Cassell's." She had previously resided at West Court, and at Wyse Hill, Finchampstead, and came to live in Wokingham almost two years ago. She was the seventh child of the late Mr. Charles and Mrs. Hopkinson, of Eccleston Square, London. The funeral was at All Saints' on Wednesday, the Rev. B. Long (rector) officiating.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### DANCING: SERGT. AND MRS. TANNER IN FINAL

A gala dance was held on Monday in the Drill Hall. Mr. E. Pearce, with his Jolly Quintette Dance Orchestra, was in attendance. In the eliminating contest for the Southern Counties' Waltzing Championship Cup, Sergt.-Instructor T.T. Tanner and Mrs. Tanner came out on top of the 11 couples competing, and therefore qualified for the final, to be held in Reading. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. H. Drewett and Mr. Len Charmaine, who also acted as M.C.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest festival for the two churches were held on Wednesday. At St. Paul's teachers and scholars of the day schools attended the 11.30 a.m. service, conducted by the rector, Rev. H.M. Walter, at which the Rev. A.P. Carr, Vicar of St. Sebastian's, gave the address. The united service for both churches were held in the evening at All Saints'. The anthem was "Thou visited the earth" (Green), and the special preacher was the Rev. G.S. Long, Rector of Aldington, Kent.

#### CATHOLIC SALE OF WORK

In aid of the funds of the Catholic Church of Corpus Christi, the Terrace, a sle of work was successfully held at the Presbytery, Station Road, on Wednesday last week. Stalls were arranged around the garden and were managed as follows:-Fancy stall: Mrs. And the Misses Ashton. Second-hand stall: the Misses Woodward. Sixpenny stall: Miss Tornito Bernito. Fruit and vegetables: Misses Ellis and Walpole and Mr. O'Connor. Tea on the lawn was served by a number of ladies.

#### MOTORING ACCIDENT

About 6.40 p.m. on Sunday, a collision between a motor-car and a motor-cycle occurred at Handpost Corner, Finchampstead Road. The motor-cycle owned and driven by Mr. Charles Sully, of Maidenhead, also carried a pillion passenger, Pte. Mallett, of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Batt. Royal Tank Corps, stationed at Farnborough. At the turning into Finchampstead Road, an open touring car driven by Mr. Percy Norris, of Clapham, London, collided from the rear with the cycle as the driver, Mr. Sully, was slowing down to take the turning. Both the riders of the cycle sustained injuries-cuts, bruises and shock, and damaged clothing.

#### SPOON SHOOT REVIVED

Before the war, "D" Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks held spoon shoots regularly during the summer, and on Sunday this custom was revived. Five rounds with a sighter were fired at 200, 500 and 600 yards.. For the Class A (Marksmen) Spoon,

Lce.-Cpl. Hurdwell was first, Major Hughes second, and Sgt. Marriner third. In the Class B Spoon, Lce.-Cpl. Woodley and Pte. Knight shot off after a tie, resulting in a win for Pte. Knight. The Recruits' Spoon was won by Pte. Bickmore. During the morning the ties for the Company Cup, and the Lewis Gun Cup were shot off, the Company Cup being won by Lce.-Cpl. Kew with C.Q.M.S. Longhurst second, and Cpl. Cleeton third. The Lewis Gun cup was won by Pte Bole, with Lce.-Cpl. Woodley second.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

#### NEW LONDON ROAD POST OFFICE

The efforts of Councillor Chutter to secure increased postal facilities for the London Road district have met with success, a sub-post office having been opened on Monday, at the shop of Mr. Gale, grocer, at the Corner of London Road and Seaford Road, for the sale of stamps, postal orders and money orders, also for old age pensions, national savings and other business. This will undoubtedly prove a great convenience to the residents in the immediate vicinity. A pillar-box has been erected and telephone calls will also be taken.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### FLYING CLUB'S CONCERT

In aid of the funds of the newly-formed North Road Flying Club of Wokingham, the Cheerio Concert Party gave a capital entertainment to a full house in the Town Hall on Monday.

#### GUY FAWKES' DAY

The renaissance of Guy Fawkes celebrations all over country was fully shared by Wokingham on Monday. For many years there has not been such a general exhibition of bonfires, nor such continuous detonations of fireworks, which last, on this occasion, were of considerably heavier calibre than usual, and aroused memories of war-time air raids.

#### CHANGE OF COMMAND

It was announced at the recent prize-giving of the local Territorials ("D" Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks) that Captain and Brevet Major A.C. Hughes, T.D., would be relinquishing command of the Company on October 31<sup>st</sup>, and that Lieut. S.G. Ford, D.F.C., would assume command. It is satisfactory to note that the Company will again be commanded by an officer with considerable local interests.

1929

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

#### DEATH OF MR. E.S. BARRY

The death occurred at his residence, 33 Broad Street, Wokingham, on Wednesday night, from heart trouble, of Mr. E. Stephenson Barry, the well-known Wokingham solicitor, after a few days' illness. Mr. Barry, who was a churchwarden at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, was a partner in the old firm of Cooke Cooper and Barry, Solicitors, of Wokingham, who have been for many years solicitors to the Bear Wood Estate.

#### TOWN BAND

The Town Band made their usual monthly visit to the men's meeting at St. Paul's School on Sunday, the assistant bandmaster, Mr. R. Milsom, conducting.

At a meeting of the band on Monday it was decided to purchase six more new instruments if terms could be arranged with Messrs. Boosey and Co. This will put the band instrumentally on a similar footing to other bands in the Reading district. Some of the old instruments are in a deplorable condition and must be renewed. The band is now settling down to steady practice under Mr. Coppuck, of Reading.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

#### FLYING CLUB CONCERT

In aid of the funds of the Wokingham North Road Flying Club, a very successful concert was given in the British Legion Hall on Monday by the "K[??] Knuts and K[??]," whose services the promoters were fortunate in securing. The programme, an entirely new one, the fourth introduced by the party, gave great satisfaction, especially the skit, entitled "House Hunting."

#### ILLNESS

There has been a considerable amount of illness in the borough recently, and among the deaths during the past week were those of Mr. C.T. Swadling, builder, of 24 Howard Road, Mr. Andrew Maclean, of 35, London Road, and Mr. G. Fowler, 35, The Terrace; the last named was for 25 years caretaker of St. Paul's Schools, Wokingham, and was well-known to several generations of teachers and scholars who will remember him as an old friend, while the organists of St. Paul's will remember his long and faithful services as an organ blower.

#### STATION LIGHTED BY CANDLES

On Friday night last week, on account of the extremely severe weather, the supply of gas to the Southern Railway Station completely failed. The only readily available means of illumination was found to be candles, and by this means the booking office, waiting rooms and signal boxes were enabled to carry on. Trouble with gas and water pipes has been general and bursts of the latter frequent. At Shute End House, after a bathroom burst, the running water and spray froze down the outside stack pipe and produced a remarkable effect.

#### LECTURE SOCIETY

The Lecture Society were favoured on Wednesday in the Town Hall, with a most interesting lantern lecture by Judge Alexander, entitled "A Magistrate in the South Seas." The lecturer, who is the author of "From the Middle Temple to the South Seas," after practising at the English Bar, went out to Fiji to take up the post of Chief Magistrate. In Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands, he gathered much information as to the native life and character, and he has a wide fund of humorous anecdotes. Subsequently he was appointed Judge of the High Court of Tanganyika. Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., presided and the lecturer was heartily thanked for his most interesting lecture.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March

WOKINGHAM GAS WORKS SALE  
£35,000 Offer by Yorktown Company

If the Bill at present before Parliament, to authorise the sale of the Wokingham Gas Works to the York Town and Blackwater Gas and Electricity Co., can be got through before the election, the company will probably take over the works in the early autumn of this year. At present the Bill is before the House of Lords, and has passed its second reading; it now enters the Committee stage.

The Wokingham Council recently agreed to sell their gas works to the company, and the sum of about £35,000 will be paid by the company to the Corporation, and this money will operate towards the relief of the rates.

An important clause has been inserted in the Bill that all employees at the Wokingham works of two years' standing and over will be retained on the same rates of pay by the company. As far as the higher officials are concerned provision is made in the Bill for their compensation if they do not continue in their posts. No difference in price is expected.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May

#### MILITARY BAND SUNDAY CONCERT

The Wokingham Military Band gave a capital free concert on Sunday evening in the Drill Hall under Bandmaster E.J. Newman. The programme met with hearty appreciation.

#### POLITICAL MEETINGS

The local political parties are getting busy in view of the coming General Election. On Wednesday evening the "Imps" held a meeting in the Town Hall, over which Captain B.J. Fuller presided, and Captain Rex Davies was the speaker. On the same evening in the Drill Hall a meeting was held by the Liberals with a special view to the new women voters. Mrs Stocks, of Reading, was in the chair, and the speaker was Miss Hester Holland.

#### INDUSTRIAL SUNDAY

The institution known as Industrial Sunday was observed in the town on Sunday, both at All Saints' and at the Baptist church. At All Saints' the evening preacher was the Rev. G.E. Jenkins, of All Saints' Reading. The Mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley), wearing his chain of office, and accompanied by several members of the council, attended the service, and a number of employers and employees were present. At the Baptist Church Rev. R. Martin Harvey, the pastor, took for his subject "The Lord's Prayer."

#### TOWN BAND

The Town Band, under Bandmaster Mr. Coppuck, played a capital selection of music in the Market Place on Saturday evening. The cornet solo by Mr. R. Milsom and the trombone solo by Mr. L. Coppuck were outstanding features. The following was the programme:-March, "The Defender"; waltz, "Sweet Memories"; overture, "Windermere"; cornet solo, "Londonderry Air," soloist R. Milsom; foxtrot, "All by Yourself in the Moonlight"; trombone solo, "Drink to me only," soloist L. Coppuck; foxtrot, "I can't give you anything but love"; march, "Irwell Springs." Mr. F. Every is the hon. secretary.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June

#### BACK FROM AUSTRALIA

Their many friends have just had the pleasure of welcoming home Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Chapman, who have been to Australia, etc., watching the fortunes of their noted son, Mr. A.P.F. Chapman, captain of the English Test Team.

#### LOCAL IRONMONGER'S SUCCESS

Mr. E. Hole, assistant to Messrs. E.A. Hussey and Son, ironmongers, of the Market Place, has been awarded the diploma of the Incorporated Ironmongers Federation. Mr. Hole obtained a third place for the British Isles. The examination was very comprehensive.

#### GAS WORKS EMPLOYEES' OUTING

On Saturday the employees of the Corporation Gas Works held, with their friends, their annual outing, travelling in a 20-seater motor-coach to Southsea. The party included Mr. W.P. Tucker (manager), Mr. C.T. May (accountant), Mr. J. Liddiard and Mr. G. Marshall. The party dined together at one of the Southsea Hotels. Some of the members took a sea trip to Ryde (I.O.W.), while others preferred the attractions of beach and pier.

#### UNUSUAL MOTOR ACCIDENT

On Saturday night, about 10 p.m., Mr. Edwin O. Capon, of "Charfield," Sonning, who was accompanied by his wife, was driving down Shute End, in the direction of Reading, when he saw a man and girl lying on the road in front of his car, with the man's motor-cycle a little distance off. Putting on his brakes to avoid running over them, Mr. Capon's car skidded, and became jammed between the lamp-post and the iron railings of St. Paul's School playground. The car sustained considerable damage to its wings, windscreen and running board. The police, on being called to the spot, found the car jammed between the lamp-post and the school railings, which were much damaged. There were skid marks on the road, which was damp from recent rain. The motor-cyclist and the girl had left the spot. They had not given their names and addresses.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June

#### SUCCESSFUL SALE

Messrs Cottrell and Butler were successful at their sale on Tuesday last in disposing of the whole of the properties of Mr. John Frith, deceased, and also of the land in Easthampstead Road and Seaford Road, Wokingham.

#### ACCIDENT

Mr. Edwin O. Capon, of "Charfield," Sonning, writes in regard to the accident in which he was involved on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Shute End, that the driver of the motor-cycle, Mr. P. Mills, of Windlesham, gave his name and address when asked. Mr. Mills assured him that neither he nor his passenger were injured, and did not leave the scene until he had satisfied himself that neither Mr. Capon nor his wife were injured.

#### OPPORTUNITIES OF VISITING AMERICA

A holiday visit to Canada and the U.S.A., providing a delightful week each way on board a great Atlantic floating palace with heaps of fun, jolly games, and healthful ozone, and a week or even longer sightseeing, is now possible. The Canadian Pacific have this year inaugurated a number of specially conducted parties at an inclusive fare, relieving members of all worries and responsibility, thereby making it very easy



for anyone to take one of these trips. A special representative of the Canadian Pacific will be in attendance at the offices of their local agent, Mr. H.J. Fear, 14a, Broad Street, Wokingham, on Monday and Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

#### D. C. O. (WOKINGHAM TERRITORIALS)

##### Weekend Camp

There was a good muster of 60 for the first week-end camp at the usual camping ground in Wiltshire Road (by kind permission of Mr. E.C. Hughes), on Saturday and Sunday. The company was under its company commander (Lieut. Spencer G. Ford, D.F.C., Second Lieut. C. W. Booth, Second Lieut. C.R. Watson, C.S.M. Brant and C.Q.M.S. Longhurst. A large number of those present attended the usual Saturday night dance at the Drill Hall.

On Sunday the company devoted a considerable amount of time to elementary machine-gun training. Colonel Field (C.O.) and Captain Johnson (adjutant) visited the camp on Sunday morning and expressed themselves very pleased at the progress made in so short a time. The company has only recently become a machine-gun company, under the new establishment, and a lot of hard work has been put in by officers, N.C.O.s and men during this winter and spring, in order to become proficient in the handling of this new arm.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion now at Aldershot, have given every assistance in their power, and both officers and N.C.O.s have greatly profited by recent courses of instruction there.

On Sunday night an enjoyable concert was held at the Drill Hall, run by the Wokingham Military Band, under the direction of Mr. E.J. Newman, late bandmaster R.A., Woolwich. This band is closely connected with the company. Programme:- All Saints' Glee Party; Cpl. Carter and C.S.M. Brant, songs; Mr. H. Langley, clarinet solo; Miss M. Webb, accompanist.

There are six vacancies for six more recruits before camp, which is being held at Whittington, near Cheltenham, in August.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

##### BAND IN JOEL PARK

The Wokingham Military Band, under Mr. R.J. Newman, played a programme of music in Joel Park on Sunday.

##### VISIT TO THE ZOO

The annual excursion of the Wokingham Corporation employees was held on Saturday, when the Zoological Gardens, London were visited.

##### INFIRMARY BEAUTY SPOT

The grounds of the Wokingham Infirmary are now looking at their best and are ablaze with hundreds of roses, delphiniums, antirrhinums and geraniums.

##### LOCAL HISTORY

Mr. A.T. Heelas, member of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, visited the Palmer School and gave the senior scholars an interesting address on "The Historical associations of Wokingham." Mr. H.F. Maidment (head master) thanked Mr. Heelas.

##### INMATES OUTING

At a meeting of the Wokingham Board of Guardians on Tuesday, the chairman (Mr. E.M. Sturges) thanked two members—Miss Sturges and Mrs. Eustace—for entertaining the women inmates to a tea party and motor drive. The old ladies, he said, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

#### DISAPPOINTED SCOUTS AND GUIDES

For their postponed sports meeting (Empire Day being wet) the Scout and Guides of Wokingham assembled on Tuesday evening at “Glebelands,” where they had been invited by Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson. The weather again proved unpropitious, rain falling steadily, in consequence of which the meeting was finally abandoned for this year. The band of the R.M.S.O., Bear Wood (under Bandmaster E. Elwood), formed up in the drive, and headed the march on to the lawn, followed by the R.M.S.O. Sea Scouts (Assistant Scoutmaster Green), the Mayor’s Own 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Troop of Boy Scouts, the Rovers, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Cubs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wokingham Cubs; Girl Guides, under District Commissioner Miss De Vitre included, 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Brownies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wokingham Brownies, 4<sup>th</sup> Wokingham Girl Guides (Bear Wood); 3<sup>rd</sup> Wokingham Wesleyan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wokingham Girl Guides, Grosvenor School, and the British Legion children (Mr. A. Andrews). Sir Leslie Wilson and Lady Wilson gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, and Sir Leslie invited them to lemonade and cakes. Mr. A. Andrews thanked Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson for their kind reception. The band of the R.M.S.O. played selections.

#### A WOKINGHAM FETE Successful Venture for St. Paul’s MANY HELPERS

In ideal weather the eighth annual parochial fete of St. Paul’s Church, Wokingham was held in the lovely grounds of “Beches,” Reading Road, by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Pountney. The grounds were bedecked with flags and decorations, to which the many coloured stalls and their contents added further variety. The unavoidable absence of Lady Wilson led to a slight modification of the programme, the opening being performed by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, who was introduced by the Rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Mrs. Corfield expressed her regret at Lady Wilson’s absence. Church work today was not easy, she said. The clergy needed help. Men and women were slack to seize opportunities. The Church was not a failure, but was tackling problems with courage and faith. People might be failing but not the Church.

Little Miss Phyllis Garrett then presented Mrs. Cornfield with a handsome bouquet.

The opening ceremony took place on the Terrace, after which and during the fete the capital band of the Royal Merchant Seaman’s Orphanage, Bear Wood, under Bandmaster E. Elwood (by permission of the governor, Capt. Armitage) played a selection of music.

The stalls and stallholders were as follows:-Fancy stall: Mrs. Walter, assisted by Mrs. De Vitre, Mrs. Pountney, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Henlé, Mrs Harwood, Misses B. and M. Ellison, Tatham, Benson and Henlé; Sweet stall: Mrs. P.O. Watson, Mrs. Nicholson and family, Miss Watson, Fruit, flower and vegetable stall: The Lady Victoria Villiers, Miss Angela Villiers, Miss Isobel Villiers; Basket stall:- Mrs. and Miss Harwood, Miss Hill, Miss Heelas; Miscellaneous stall:-Mrs. Newberry and Mrs. Hyde Parker; Bran tub:-Mrs. Martin and Mrs. E.J. Girdler; Teas:-Miss Desbois, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Priest, Mrs Houlton, Mrs. Orpen; Mrs. Grant; Mrs. Teakle, Misses Deane, Green, Cox, Gregory, Laumann, Crook, Priest, Tebbitt, Mr. Teakle, Mr.

Eamery; Refreshment stall:-Mrs. Houlton, Miss Hermon, Miss E.M. Death, Miss Holloway, Miss Webb; Ices:- Mrs. W. Irving, Mrs. A.E. Bullock, Mrs. E.W. Reeves.

The great feature of the fete was the successful baby show, held in the garden house and in charge of Miss Benson. Dr. Rose was the able judge, while Head Section Leader Miss Cornish and Miss Woodward, of the 28<sup>th</sup> Berks V.A.D., took charge of the infants.

Miss Curl distributed the prizes, the winners being—Class 1, girls under 1 year: 1, Barbara Phelps; 2, Edna Potter; 3, Vera Woods; h.c.; Phyllis Baker and Phyllis Watts; special for twins, Celia Mead and Alma Mead.

Boys under 1 year:-1, Eric Trendle; 2, Roy Marshall; 3, Stanley White; h.c., Cyril Ford.

Boys and girls under 2:-1, Gordon Brown; 2, Brian Colyer; 3, Ronald Miles; h.c., Kenneth Eamer and Kathleen Hearn.

Boys and girls under 3 years:-1, Cecil Lusted; 2, Allan Sherwood.

The dancing demonstration (in costume) by scholars of St. Paul's Schools, under Miss Butler, was greatly admired, as were the maypole and other performances by the infants of St. Paul's, under Miss Liddiard.

The gentlemen's hat trimming competition, arranged by Mr. H.B. Noyes, provided much amusement, the winners being Mr. Newberry and Mr. Pountney.

In paper-hat making (ladies) the first prize deservedly went to Miss Harwood and the second to Mrs. Sharpe. Mrs. F. Heelas took charge of this very charming competition. Threading the needle race (Mrs. Noyes in charge) was won by: Mrs. Fuller; 2, Miss Cowdery. Other side-shows were nail-driving (in charge, Rev. A.F. Sheffield), won by Mr. Newberry and Mr. Slyfield); and the ladies' section by Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Sharpe. Bowling (gentlemen) was in charge of Mr. A.H. Jones and Mr. H. May, the winners being Mr. Steele and Mrs. Banks; and the ladies' section, Miss Newman and Miss Collett. Ladies' bowling was in charge of Miss Sargeant and Mrs. Browne. Cake weight guessing was won by Miss E. Ward (whose guess was quite correct) and Mr. Noyes. Potting the cockerel (Messrs Grant and Vass), winner Miss Pountney; 2, Miss Earle, Candle-lighting: (Mrs. Harbour), won by Mrs. Pinkney and Mrs. Boddington; Cork spearing (Mrs. Inglis), won by Mr. Newport and Miss Chivers; cocoanut shies: (Messrs White and Pocock); ball and bucket (Misses Green and Marlow): 1, Mrs. Banks; 2, Mrs. Walker; pony and donkey rides for children, Miss West and helpers; rifle shooting, Mr. E.W. Youdell (winners: 1, Mr. Sadler; 2, Mr. West); quoits (Mr. H.R. Noyes), winners, Mr. Goddard, Mr. P.L. Strange.

The Mayor's Own 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham Rover Scouts, under R.M. Cyril Wilson, did excellent service. Little Joan and Pat Nicholson with their sweet trays did a good trade, as did little Miss Noyes with the cake-weight guessing competition.

A capital concert programme, arranged by Mr. A.H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., organist of St. Paul's, was given on the lawn in the evening. Miss D.M. Griffin played a couple of pianoforte solos in excellent style. Mrs. Horne (who as Miss Ricketts has frequently delighted St. Paul's congregation with her sweet singing) sang "Mountain Lovers" and "Bird of love divine."

A male quartet party, Messrs. R. Hosler, J. Orpin, F. Vass and J. Wright, gave several pleasing part songs. "Dr. Foster," "The Joke," "The Sailor's Song," etc., in good style. Mr. R.E. Burkett was as usual a favourite, as was Mr. F.W. Manning in his bass solos. The laughable sketch, "Jackets," was ably acted by the Misses. B. Monger, G. Taylor, T. Rickards and G. Bolton. Miss Barbara Fellows contributed some very pretty solo dances.

The proceedings concluded with a dance in the Drill Hall. Music was supplied by Mr. Ayers' Dance Band, and Mr. Eric Langley was M.C. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies of the fete refreshment stall. Prizes for dancing were won by Miss Newberry and Mr. Burcham, Miss Howard and Mr. Cook.

Upwards of 1,000 visitors patronised the event. Mr. A.E. Priest, hon. secretary of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council and of the fete committee and his hardworking helpers, deserve every congratulation upon their very successful efforts.

The financial result broke all previous records, the profit being over £135.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

### ALL-DAY REVELS AT WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL

Huge Crowds Make Merry On Wednesday

### MAYOR BUMPED AT BEATING OF THE BOUNDS

The spirit of carnival was held captive for just eighteen hours at Wokingham on Wednesday, when one of the greatest carnivals in the history of the borough was held in aid of a number of local charities.

Everyone from the mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley) down to the humblest citizen had worked hard, under the direction of that wonderful organiser, Councillor F.S. Perkins, to whom everyone accords praise for the remarkable work he did in making all the arrangements. Everything proceeded smoothly, and there was not a hitch at any time.

Years have passed since Wokingham presented such scenes of gaiety. Everyone and everything seemed decorated. The first to appear were collectors in a variety of fancy dresses, who from the early hours worked with the usual persistency of their kind and continually extracted money from not only the people in Wokingham, but also all who passed through.

As the day wore on the merriment increased. The more serious business of beating the bounds having been done, the town let itself go. Streets were thronged with people intent on extracting the maximum fun from the carnival.

Many wore fancy dress, and, disguised as Zulus, a trio of young men with blackened bodies and only a loin cloth for clothing, held up an astonished and rather embarrassed policeman, while a prehistoric golfer wrapped in furs and with bare legs and spats trudged through the streets with his solitary club on his shoulder.

It was in the evening, however, when the revels reached their highest peak. After a wonderful procession of decorated cars and fancy dresses, nearly two miles long had passed, and darkness had fallen, the whole town was illuminated. A jolly, carefree crowd thronged the streets, through which impromptu bands marched playing popular airs. At Langborough a fair attracted hundreds of people, who stayed until midnight patronising the roundabouts and other amusements. The dances and concerts were highly popular.

### Beating the Bounds

As eight o'clock struck in the old tower of the Wokingham Town Hall a bugle call was heard. It was the signal for the day's revels to start. Collectors from all parts arrived and set out to find their prey. Along the main and side roads they ranged, holding up all who passed along the way. Thus the day started in wonderful weather.

The beating of the bounds of the enlarged borough was carried out for the first time. No one can remember when the bounds of Wokingham were beaten before, and it was a large crowd that gathered at the Town Hall to hear the town crier announce that the bounds were to be "well and truly" beaten, and that it should be well impressed on the minds of the younger generation.

## Birching and Bumping

A start was made at Toutley Cottages, where two boys were birched by Dr. E. Ward. They bent over the boundary mark while the chastisement was in progress, but an examination afterwards disclosed that they had placed cardboard under their coats. As the strokes were administered the people shouted the words, "This-is-the-borough-boundary."

The same sentence greeted the bumping of the mayor and Mayoress, Supt. Goddard and the heaviest aldermen and councillors upon whom hands could be laid. Dr. Ward stood by with his stethoscope handy in case anyone should be overcome by the method of impressing the boundary marks upon the minds by way of the bodies. The schoolboys' turn came later when they saw their schoolmaster bumped.

After each post had been properly observed a brass plaque was affixed, signalling that the bounds had been beaten in 1929 while Councillor Whaley was Mayor. At many of the posts short speeches were made and Ald. W.T. Martin took advantage of the occasion to tell the children all about the ceremony and to express the hope that the youngsters would grow into councillors in time to come. To express their appreciation the listeners thoroughly bumped the alderman on a post. At one part the Embrook had to be crossed and a boy was held up by his heels and his head ducked into the water. On many posts girls were placed and kissed, there being considerable competition on the part of the males to perform this part of the ceremony.

It was too much to expect the beating party to cover the whole of the twelve miles over which the boundary extended, so the party was split into three. The first, led by Mr. F.W. Stokes and with Mr. H.W. Grummett as guide, went from Toutley through Bear Wood—where the fern and other growth was at times higher than the heads of the beaters—skirting Barkham and out to the Finchampstead Road, near Hand Post Corner. Here they were met by a second party which had started from London Road, near The Plough, under the direction of Mr. A.E. Hall, and with the borough surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks) as path-finder. They had worked southwards until they reached the railway at Waterloo crossing, and continued by the line to the footbridge at the bottom of Langborough where they turned left and followed the Embrook to Woodcree Farm and thence to Hand Post Corner. The third party took the boundary from Toutley to The Plough, Mr. Harold Watts being the leader and Mr. R. Hunt having the map. Their journey was north of the town and they had to pass through the Embrook on their way.

Alderman P. Sale was the organiser of the ceremony of the beating of the bounds. He appeared in hunting kit and, mounted on a horse, accompanied the party from Toutley to Hand Post Corner. "It is some years since I have been on a horse and I feel jolly sore," he told a "Mercury" representative. "The whole thing was carried through in perfect temper and a thoroughly sporting spirit. We gave all the people, especially the ladies, a good bumping, and I don't think they will forget it for the rest of their lives," he added.

## Comic Cricket

There was a cricket match in costume on the Wokingham cricket ground, the teams being the ladies of the Wokingham Lawn Tennis Club and the members of the Wokingham Cricket Club. The cricket club appeared on paper to be a strong team as A.P.F. Chapman was in the unusual position of being reserve. They were handicapped, however, by having to bat with various "utensils," ranging from a beer bottle to a frying pan, and bowl with the wrong arm. The ladies batted first, and after a somewhat strenuous innings, in which there were the minimum number of "faults," managed to score 65. The opening pair for the cricket club, a pair of twins, had to be

wheeled to the wicket, and there were cries of dismay when one was given "out." The methods of the players, although being very entertaining, were rather unorthodox, as several players had to be got out several times before they would leave. Other batsmen would insist on taking the ball with them, and on these occasion scenes reminiscent of a Rugby football match would ensue, the batsmen being tackled in true Rugby manner. One member of the cricket-club's side used an umbrella as a bat and this proved highly effective until it met with misfortune. The men's innings came to an abrupt conclusion when a beer bottle which was being utilised as a bat smashed, and the player was forced to retire, the match ended in a "tie."

For an hour during the afternoon the "Neveravebeens" played the "Neverwillbes" in a comic football match. All players wore costumes reminiscent of Joseph's coat and soon forgot which side they belonged to. Nobody quite knew who won, but one "lady" got so hot that she caught fire and had to be undressed on the field. There were no fights, but all enjoyed themselves.

### Wokingham Win the Ankle Competition

Reading ladies skidded badly when they accepted the challenge of the Wokingham ladies to an ankle competition. Fifty-four pairs of ankles were marshalled by the organiser, Mr. Donovan Watts, for judging at the Drill Hall in the afternoon, and Reading could not get in the first three. So good were the Wokingham ankles that as the evening wore on more and more of the legs possessing such shapely ankles were shown. Now the reading ladies are thinking out a campaign for revenge.

Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson was the judge of the preliminary heat, but it was more than a mere man dare do to decide on the prettiest ankles in the show and expect to get out alive. So Mrs. Long, full of courage, made the final decision from among those who survived the eliminating process. The ladies appeared in fours on a platform behind a screen, which allowed a view of the ankles and lower part of the legs only. The competitors were turned each way so that the ankles could be thoroughly viewed. The best of the quartet had a card put in her shoe and she competed again. A good crowd of interested women--and a few men--viewed the proceedings.

At last the result was made known thus: 1, Mrs. Reed (Wokingham); 2, Mrs. Saunders (Wokingham); 3, Miss Smith (Bracknell).

### Fire Brigade Display

The cricket match was followed by a fire brigade display, organised by the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade, the brigade and lady members of Messrs. Heelas, Sons and Co., Ltd., taking part. The ladies gave exhibitions of hydrant drill--wet and dry--some people finding it very wet. The brigade started their exhibition with showing --very strenuously--the old method of fire fighting, using one of their first fine fire engines, which bears the date 1878. They followed this up by showing the new style of fire fighting, the six man motor drill. The brigade concluded by giving an exhibition of Davy drill, several members of the public descending' from a height by means of the escape "to) see what it is like."

### The Procession

The spectacle of the day was the carnival procession through the streets in the evening. It took half an hour to pass, and Wokingham had never seen anything like it before. Carts, motor-vans, cycles, fire engines, bands, platoons of collectors, all passed before the eyes—a moving picture of pageantry, with all the colours of the spectrum moving in a well-ordered throng.

Leading came Wokingham's first fire fighters—in top hats and with one man carrying a hand pump a little larger than the kind generally used to squirt water on the

garden. Wokingham's first engine, a decrepit affair, labelled "1865," followed, and then engines of 1878 to the present day. Next was a tableau of Wokingham's Borough insignia, the acorn, with archers standing beneath the oak leaves.

Chained together came a band of "convicts" making strong music with curious instruments. On top of a lorry was a motley gang with "animals" of peculiar appearance inside; it was "Barmy and Balamb's Menagerie." The oldest motor car emitting steam, came coughing slowly along, its number being B.C.1. "Misery Farm" was just what it looked. In the rear was Wokingham's flying squad complete with "big four" and finger print department, all in a hansom cab. This – caricature of the police had a wireless aerial and an inspector telephoning frantically. All those who were not teetotallers recognised the decorated, "My favourite flower."

As against the comic, side were some picturesque tableaux, including, "Hiawatha's Wedding," hospital scene, fairyland, "the old woman who lived in a shoe." The prize children in the baby competition looked rather bored from their mother's knees as they went by in a lorry. One car showed the stork's first public visit to Wokingham, with the bird, nurses and babies. Apart from cars there were some original and picturesque dresses; they ranged from a feathered fowl to Red Cross nurse to a bear. As night fell many of the cars were illuminated, and with the lights of the shops and Chinese lanterns the scene was one of animated beauty and joviality.

### Dances and Concerts

At the Drill Hall there was a grand carnival ball which continued, until two o'clock in the morning. Balloons and streamers, together with the colourful effect of the dresses, made a wonderful scene as the dancers moved to the strains of the Cabaret Dance Band. The number of tickets issued was strictly limited and there was great competition to secure them. The Mayor and Mayoress and most of the prominent townfolk attended.

Another dance was held at the Town Hall the musicians being the Harmony Orchestra. Here also many people had to be turned away because there was not sufficient room. For those who preferred a concert the "Cheerio" and "Koko Knuts" parties presented an excellent entertainment, which was well-attended.

It was estimated that about 25,000 people were in Wokingham during the day. Everything, however, passed off quite smoothly. There were no accidents and the ambulance men on duty had an easy time. The police, under Supt. Goddard, had no trouble and no one was taken into custody during the day.

### Mayor's Satisfaction

The Mayor of Wokingham, discussing the carnival with a "Reading Mercury" representative said: "It was undoubtedly the best Wokingham has ever known. Both the Mayoress and myself thought it wonderful, particularly the carnival procession. Everyone in Wokingham has worked remarkably hard; every sect; club; society, and organisation in the town has helped and worked together for the town's good."

It was authoritatively stated last night that at least £300 would be available for charity as the result of the carnival. There is still some money to come in and all expenses have not yet been dealt with. Very possibly, it was said, £350 or £400 would be realised.

### Prize Winners

Prize winners in the various events were as follows:-

Carnival procession.—Decorated motor-cycle.—1, Mrs. Elder; 2, Mr. Giles.

Decorated bicycle.—1, Mr. Eales.

Historical tableaux on wheels.—1, Palmer School (Viking Ship); 2, St. Paul's School (Hiawatha's Wedding); 3, Palmer School (Elfland); 4, Messrs. Froud and Barratt (Messrs. Barmy and Balamb).

Trade demonstration.—1, Messrs. Drake and Mount; 2, Messrs. W.G. Jefferies; 3, Mr. R. Osler; 4, Messrs Sale and Son.

Ladies' costume.—1, Mrs. Carter; 2, Mrs. C. May; 3, Miss Harwood.

Pedestrian's costume.—1, W. Hawkins; 2, T. Lawrence; 3, W. Brant.

Children under 14.—1, Dorothy Gater; 2, Barrie Nicholls; 3, Irene Hutchings.

Decorated pram or Fairy cycle.—1,2 and 3 (tied), Webber, Smith and Heath; 4, L. Millard; 5 and 6 (tied), Osmond and Palmer.

The judges were the Rev. B. Long, Capt. P. Washington, Capt. Woodford, Dr. C.J. Nicholson, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Alderman P. Sale, Major T.W. Greenstreet, Capt. Hart, Mrs. Tee, Mrs. H. M. Wallis, Mrs Shaw, Mr. C. Mansfield, the Misses S. and M. Finch, the Lady Victoria Villiers, Dr. E. Ward, Mr. L.H. Luddington, Lady Hambleton, and the Mayoress.

Hose and shop decorations.—Houses: 1, Mr. Giles, 79 Gipsy Lane; 2, Mr. G. Townsend, Peach Street; 3, Mrs. Band, Rose Street. Shops: 1, Messrs. Foy, Market Place; 2, London Central Meat Co., Peach Street; 3, Messrs. R. Nelson, Broad Street.

The following were successful in the class, Best decorated vehicles: 1, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Watts; 2, Mr. W.E. Giles; 3, Mr G. Townsend.—the holder of the lucky programme was Mr. F. Clarke, with No. 251.

Clock competition.--Miss Lewington.'

The\_ result of a whist drive held in the British Legion Hall was as follows:--

Ladies: 1, Miss Brow; 2, Mrs. Green; 3, Mrs. Martin. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Griffin; 2, Master P.R. Herring; 3, Mr. Shorter. The M.C. was Mr. A. Sherwood.

"Acorn," the mystery man of the carnival, was correctly challenged by Miss Elsie Fry, to whom the prize was awarded.

### Baby Show

There were 120 entries in the baby show, the results of which were as follows:--

Under one year.—1, Betty Hamblin; 2, Lionel Potter; 3, Beryl Busby; 4, Bridget Withers.

Under two years.—1, Kenneth Willis; 2, Vivienne Leigh; 3, Ronald Chouler; 4, Yvonne Coleman.

Under three years.—1, Peter Jones; 2, Pat Hancock; 3, Robert Proud; 4, Phil Hall.

Under four years.—1, Joan Brackley; 2, Mary Austin; 3, Donald Walker.

Twins.—Alice and Elsie Lawrence.

### Motor-Cycle Gymkhana.

An exciting motor-cycle gymkhana on the Town Football ground yielded the following results:--

Musical chairs.—1, Humphries and Slyfield; 2, F. Moulard and Miss Webber.

Musical stalls.—1, B. Wakefield; 2, C. Matthews; 3, R. Halls.

Tilting the bucket.--1, F. Townson; 2, R. Halls

Obstacle race.—1, F. Moreland; 2, F. Townson; 3, C. Morse.

### The Side-shows.

The side-shows took place in the Market Square- and round the Town Hall, and aroused great interest.

Those responsible for the side-shows were:--Chairman, Mr. L. S. Parsons; secretary, Mrs. L.S. Parsons; bowling for a pig, Mr. J. Liddiard; bowling for a lady's umbrella, Mrs. Fowler; hoop-la, Mrs. Morris; wheel of fortune, Mrs. F. Jones; Aunt Sally, Mrs. Butcher; guessing stall, Mrs. Arnold; card darts, Miss Rogers; electric board, Miss E.



Deane; hidden treasure, Mrs. Grant; penny on squares, Mrs. Brookman; balls in pipes, Mrs. Reynolds; bucket and balls, Mrs. F. Lush; dabbing corks, Miss Youlden; carnival novelties, Miss M. Brown; refreshment stall, Mrs. Webb.

### Where the Money Will Go

The proceeds of the day will be devoted to:--

The Royal Berkshire Hospital (Tin Foil Fund for Wokingham Cot).

Wokingham Clinic.

Wokingham Child Welfare Centre.

All Saints' Nursing fund.

St. Paul's Nursing Fund.

Local Detachment of the British Red Cross Society.

British Legion (Wokingham branch) for special cases of distress in Wokingham.

Any other charity approved by executive committee.

Fund for promoting similar day for 1030.

The allocation committee will consist of:

The Rev. B. Long, R.D., Rev. H.M. Walter, Rev. Father Connoly, Rev. R. Martin Harvey, Rev. W. Bird, Dr. E. Ward, Dr. H.F. Curl, Dr. C.J. Nicholson, Dr. E.F. Chapman, Dr. Rose, with the Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, Alderman P. Sale, and hon. joint secretaries.

### The Patrons

The list of patrons included the following:--

The Mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley, Miss Bailey, Mr. A.F.H. Beale, Mr. F.E. Chapman, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mrs. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Mr. L.E. Froud, Captain B.J. Fuller, Colonel Harris St. John, Captain C.R.P. Henderson, Rev. B. Long, M.A., R.D., Colonel H. McConaghey, Mrs. Moseley, Mrs. Howard Palmer, Mr. F.A. Simonds, Mr. F. Swann, Dr. E. Ward, Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

### The Officers

The officers and committee consisted of the following:-- President and chairman, The mayor; joint hon. secretaries, Councillor F. Stanley Perkins, Councillor G.C. Wilson; hon. treasurer, Councillor G.C. Wilson; executive committee, Mr. J.H. Ellison Clifton, Alderman W.T. Martin, Councillor E.W. Reeves, and chairmen of the following: Carnival, Mr. B. F. Tee; entertainments, Mr. A. Andrews; decorations, publicity and advertising, Councillor F.J. Barrett; music, Bandmaster F. Every; rag, Mr. E.W. Maris; sports, Mr. E.W. Goodchild; refreshments, Mr. A. Staniforth; sideshows, Mr. L.S. Parsons; beating the bounds, Alderman P. Sale; hospital, Mr. G. Gough; baby show, Mrs. J. Webb; Wokingham Fire Brigade, Captain W. Martin.

In addition to the above, the following rendered valuable service:--

Rag secretary, Mr. G. Gough.

House and shop decorations secretary, Miss Spanton; judges of the house and shop decorations, Mr. H. Hall and Mr. E. E. Summers.

Cricket match in costume; Organisers, Mrs. P. Brown, Mr. Leslie Kennedy, Miss Olive Allright, Mr. W. Denton; umpires, Mr. Garnet Hall, Mr. C.W. Fullbrook; stewards, Mr. I.J. Foy, Mr. C.T. Pell and Mr. W.E. Exton.

Ankle competition: Organiser, Mr. Donovan Watts; judges, Dr. C.B. Baxter, B.C.E., surgeon Royal Berkshire Hospital, Brig.-General M.G. Wilkinson, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.; steward, Mr. L.G. Wimbleton.

Baby show: organiser, Mrs. J. Webb; judges, Councillor H.F. Curl, Nurse Sandcroft.

Football match in costume: Secretary, Mr. Arthur H. Jones; referee, Mr. Harold Lee, R.A., linesmen, Messrs A.H. Jones and A. Brant; trainer, Mr. H. Frith; stewards, Messrs. E.C. Clarke and R. Hawkins.

Fire brigade display: secretary Mr. C.W. Rawlings.

Motor-cycle events: Secretary, Mr. S. Collins.

The carnival: secretary, Mr. E.C. Pounds; chief marshal, Mr. B.R. Tee; deputy chief marshal, Mr. H. Haddrell.

Carnival ball, Town Hall: Organiser, Councillor Webb; stewards, Messrs A. Prince and P. Dodd.

Carnival ball, Drill Hall: Organiser, Councillor Perkins; M.C.s Councillor Reeves and Mr. Alan H. Perkins; stewards, Messrs. Haddrell, Bowers and G. Gough.

Concert, Church House: stewards, Messrs. B. Smith, F. Reeves and T. Herring.

Whist drive: Organiser, Mr. A. Andrews.

Carnival mystery: Organiser, Mr. G. Webb.

Weight of coal, given by Mr. W.G. Jefferies.

Clock competition, clock presented by Mr. A.E. Crew.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

#### DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MRS. A.J. NICHOLSON

Her many friends in Wokingham received with deep regret the news that Mrs. Letitia Marian Nicholson, widow of Mr. Alfred James Nicholson, of "Glebelands," and "High Close," Wokingham, and who herself had resided also at "Chetwood," Wokingham, passed away at her residence, 1, Iverna Gardens, London, aged 73. Her body was cremated, and the ashes were on Saturday brought in a polished wood casket to All Saints', Wokingham with which Mrs. Nicholson had for many years been closely associated. Her three sons, lost in the war since her husband's decease, are commemorated in the roll of honour of All Saints' Church.

The funeral service was conducted by the rector, the Rev. B. Long (R.D.), and Mr. A Yould, F.R.C.O., was at the organ.

(mourners listed)

#### INTERESTING DISCOVERIES AT SHUTE END

To those who appreciate objects of antiquity, the recent discoveries at Shute End, Wokingham, where the old Grosvenor House School premises are in course of renovation, will prove of exceptional interest. The facings of the building, which looked so solid, have proved, now that the outer covering has been removed, to have been of lath and plaster, both inside and out. The framework, however, is of old oak ship timber, such as is to be seen in many ancient buildings near to the banks of the Thames. The curved shapes of many of these bulky beams tell their own story. There is much of this timber in and around Wokingham; and there is a quantity of it in the building of the old Grosvenor House School at Shute End.

While removing the plaster surfaces of the house front, the men uncovered some interesting carvings, which, at one time, embellished the cabins of the captains and officers of old time men-of-war. In a back room, where the plaster covered up the walls, there have been discovered portions of a Tudor period fire place. The stones are broken, and not any of the fragments are of large size, but it is almost certain that they formed part of the archway of a Tudor fire place of centuries ago. Upon them are carved the Tudor Roses. In this same room, also beneath the modern planked flooring, there has been found the original brick flooring, which was laid when the original house was built. The whole building will be a quaint and picturesque specimen of mediaeval architecture when Messrs. Brown and Son, the builders, who have the work in hand, have completed their operations.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

### THE TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Town Band was held on Thursday last week in St. Paul's Parish Room. The president (the Mayor, Councillor E. S. Whaley) presided.

The statement of accounts read by the secretary, Mr. F. Avery, showed a satisfactory balance, an increase in income of £40 9s. 6d. above the year 1928, and £48 18s. 2d. above 1927. The Mayor congratulated the band on its progress.

Officials for the coming year were elected as follows: Chairman; Mr. R. Millson; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Harrison; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Avery; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. H. C. Lewis; collector, Mr. L. Wicks; librarian, Mr. W. Brown; committee, Messrs. F. Woods, E. Culley, W. House and L. Wicks; assistant bandmaster, Mr. R. Millson.

The Mayor made an interesting presentation to Mr. P. Hewett in the shape of a silver-plated cornet in case, given by Messrs. Boosey and Co., the well-known musical instrument makers. Mr. Hewett lost one foot as the result of an accident, and will now be obliged under medical advice to have the other amputated. On Messrs. Boosey being made aware of this fact they immediately made Mr. Hewett a present of the cornet he was playing in the band, in the hope that, it would be a means of assisting him in the future. The hon. secretary was instructed to write and thank Messrs. Boosey on behalf of the Mayor, Mr. Hewett and the members.

It was decided that the band should make a determined attempt to compete at the Crystal Palace. Votes of thanks were accorded the officers for their services.

It may be noted that the band have given their services during the past year as follows: To the hospital committees of Wokingham and Binfield at their parades; the British Legion banner dedication service; Wokingham v. Pinewood Sanatorium cricket match; Wokingham Carnival in the evening, and several members afternoon also; and the Mayor's church parade. The band have paid £38 for instruments, while a balance of more than £100 still remains. The band expressed their thanks to their supporters for the generous help given in Joel Park and in the Market Place, and also for private donations.

### FIRE CALL

The fire brigade, on Monday evening at 8.28, received a call to a fire at Sindlesham Mills (Messrs. Over Bros.), and in six minutes were at the scene of the outbreak, where they found the engine house and a lean-to attached well alight. Sonning Fire Brigade had also received a call and arrived a few minutes after the Wokingham brigade. Four jets were soon at work, and the fire was extinguished within 20 minutes and all danger was averted. The Wokingham Brigade, who were commanded by Captain W.B. Martin, arrived back at 10 minutes to 12, midnight. The roof of the engine house was burnt off, but the machinery escaped damage.

### HERO OF "MARY ROSE."

Mr. Walter Webb, of 2, Wiltshire Road, at one time P.O. Walter Webb, R.N., of the "Mary Rose" T.B.D.-famous for her gallant action in the North Sea on October 17th, 1917, with two German light cruisers, each of superior strength, in defence of a merchant convoy--was honoured last week with an invitation to the "setting of the model of the fourth 'Mary Rose'" (the gift of Clements Langford, of Riversmount, Melbourne, Australia), in the Cathedral Church of Portsmouth. Mr. Webb wore his five medals, one a decoration from H.M. the King of Rumania, in respect of the "Vth Mary Rose" action in the War, when he was mentioned in despatches for his gallant

conduct in cheering the eleven survivors of the 98 crew of the sunk vessel till rescued. Mr. Webb is now steward of the Wokingham British Legion Club and his comrades and town are proud of him.

#### POPPY DAY

Armistice Day was observed with the usual solemnity, services being held at the churches and wreaths being placed on the various war memorials. The Silence was again impressively observed. Poppy Day arrangements locally were in the hands of Mrs. J.B. Eustace, assisted by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield and Mrs. Murray (chairman of the local women's section of the British Legion) and Mr. A. Andrews (secretary, men's section). The result was, in view of the severe weather, intensely satisfactory, the sum total of the effort reaching £148 3s. 2d., against £149 1s. 3d. last year. The weather was most boisterous, and collectors had frequently to resort to shelter from the heavy rain and fierce wind, the latter tearing flags to shreds on the Town Hall and All Saints' Church. Flags on the Town Hall parted from their attachments and were not recovered for some hours.

### 1930

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### THRILLING FIRE RESCUES Girls trapped at Old Wokingham Inn FUMES AND GAS Plucky Constable's Fall From Ladder

Thrilling rescues were made at Wokingham early on Thursday morning by the police and firemen when a fire occurred at The Queen's Head, an old inn situated on the Terrace, Reading Road, Wokingham.

In the house were the landlord, Mr. Alfred Dyer, his wife, their four daughters, Hilda, Vera, Eileen and Edna, and Mrs. Dyer's father, Mr. George Brooks, who is 87 years of age. The outbreak occurred in the tap room downstairs, a beam in the chimney taking fire and burning its way into a cupboard by the side of the fireplace. By this cupboard was the gas meter, and as the heat increased the pipes of the meter melted and the gas started to escape.

Probably the beam had been smouldering for some time. When Mr. Dyer awoke he smelt smoke, and at once aroused the rest of the household. The smoke was now increasing in volume, and, together with the gas fumes, made it impossible to get down the stairs. The alarm was given from the window, and the police informed. They at once called the Wokingham Fire Brigade.

#### POLICEMAN'S PLUCK

P.C. Surman, a young member of the force, was one of the first on the scene, and seeing the people at the windows he rushed to their aid with a ladder. Taking one of the girls—all of whom were in their night attire—in his arms, he was bringing her down the ladder when, while about half-way to the ground, the ladder slipped, and he fell with the girl on top of him. Neither was injured, but although shaken the constable again used the ladder to rescue another girl. Other policemen also ran to the scene and gave assistance.

Within three minutes of receiving the alarm the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Second Officer F. Knight, were at the fire with their motor pump and escape. Bringing the escape into immediate action the firemen carried down the remaining womenfolk

and Mr. Brooks. Mr. Dyer managed to get out by himself. One fireman dashed into the house and prevented the possibility of a gas explosion by turning off the gas at the main.

Dr. F. Curl, who is the hon. surgeon to the brigade, attended the rescued people, but beyond shock and being dazed they were not hurt.

When it was thought that everyone was saved the firemen were suddenly told that one girl was left inside. A fireman put on a smoke helmet and was about to enter the house when the girl appeared from among some neighbours.

#### TERRIBLE TRAGEDY AVERTED

A graphic account of the outbreak was given to the "Reading Mercury" by Second Officer Knight, who said: "It was just a matter of minutes, or there would have been a terrible tragedy. As we got the people out the flames were just coming through the floor. The smoke was dense—in fact there was far more smoke than flames, but the chief danger was the gas. The people were hanging out of the windows in despair. In another few seconds they would have fallen back inside, and it would have been extraordinarily difficult to get to them. It was all over very quickly, but while it was going on there were some thrilling moments."

#### WOKINGHAM CHILDREN'S PARTY

##### Fancy Dress Competition

Many Wokingham children spent a happy evening at the Town Hall on Wednesday, when the second annual children's fancy dress party, organised by the Wokingham Conservative and Unionist Association, was held, the arrangements having been made by the entertainment sub-committee of the association, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Chapman.

The Council Chamber of the Hall, underwent a delightful transformation for this event. The lights were shaded, and multi-coloured streamers hung down from the ceiling. In the work of decoration the committee had the help of three members of the Fire Brigade—Messrs. Maddams, Hawkins and Davis.

Dancing and games occupied the time, and to add to the fun crackers were distributed. The music was provided by the Harmony Dance Band, of Wokingham. Among those who visited the gathering were Captain Henderson (chairman of the association), Mr. Lyddington, the Misses Finch, Miss Curl, Mrs. Watts, and Sir Leslie Wilson, the last-named expressing in a brief speech thanks to all helpers.

The M.C.s were Mr. E. Maris (organising secretary) and Mr. L.S. Parsons. The winning costumes in the fancy dress competition were as follows:-

Boys (under 7 years): 1, Indian; 2, Drummer; 3, John Bull.

Girls (under 7): 1, Dutch Girl; 2, Penguin; 3, White Rose.

Boys (7 to 10): 1, Nigger; 2, Pirate; 3, Red Indian; consolation Huntsman.

Girls (7 to 10): 1, Victorian; 2, Umbrella; 3, Pierette; consolation, Fairy.

Boys (10 to 14): 1, Crusader; 2, Red Indian; 3, Page.

Girls (10 to 14): 1, Egyptian (green veil); 2, "Help yourself"; 3, Cracker; consolation Spanish Girl.

The judging was done by Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Coston, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Chapman. Refreshments were served by a committee of ladies, under the management of Mrs. Pither, and at the conclusion each child was handed a gift of fruit.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jan

## DAMAGE TO A PUBLIC HOUSE AT WOKINGHAM

### Reading Man buried in Debris

While the gale on Sunday night was at its height, at about 8.30, two chimney stacks at the Dog and Duck public house, Embrook, near Wokingham, were blown down, and considerable damage done to the house, and a man who was in the kitchen was hurt.

Both chimney stacks were at the back of the house, and were exposed to the full force of the gale. Apparently one about 12 feet in height fell and struck the other chimney, which was about eight feet away, and knocked it down also. The roof of the kitchen, which is situated in a single storeyed part of the house, was completely smashed in, and a large part of the glass roof of a greenhouse was smashed. There was a strong smell of gas, but owing to the large quantity of debris it was impossible to find out where the actual escape was. However, P.C. Wheeler, who was called to the scene, got to the gas meter and turned off the gas.

Mr. Charles Shepperd, of 39, Pitcroft Avenue, Reading, who was hurt, said "There was suddenly a crash and the roof fell on top of me. My head was knocked against the kitchen door, and I was nearly buried. Mr. Aldridge (the licensee) helped me out, and I found, that I had hurt my head and one shoulder and leg

After examination by Dr. Smith, of Wokingham, Mr. Shepperd was able to go home.

Mr. George Aldridge, the licensee, told a "Mercury" reporter that he was in the kitchen at the time and was on the point of going into the garden. "I heard a rumbling, and as I dashed into the garden the kitchen ceiling crashed in."

Mrs. Aldridge said her husband had a narrow escape. She said that they were frightened to go to bed that night as they did not know if any other part of the house had been loosened by the fall of the chimney stacks.

Many roads around Wokingham were blocked for some time owing to the gale.

### SOLDIER HIT BY GLASS.

A curious incident occurred in Peach Street, Wokingham. A soldier was passing through the street when he was struck in the chest by a flying pane of glass. He was not hurt, and it could not be discovered where the pane of glass came from, but apparently it had been blown out of a window.

Overthrown trees blocked both Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, and the road to Hurst. At 59, Peach Street, one of the historical gabled houses with projecting upper storey, a row of ridge tiles was blown off its bedding of mortar with a crash into the street, while a similar mishap occurred at the waterworks, Finchampstead Road.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

### R.100

The sound of its mighty engines and the appearance of its lines of shimmering beauty attracted general attention at Wokingham on Monday about mid-day when the R.100, the giant airship, circled slowly and majestically over the town for about an hour.

### SKELETON OF BABY IN MONTAGU HOUSE

Workmen engaged in repairs at Montagu House, Broad Street, made on Tuesday a gruesome find. Above the ceiling plaster in an attic, between that and the joists, they discovered the skeleton of a baby. Medical examination was unable to disclose

whether the child had ever breathed or, if so, what had been the manner of its death. The house is an old one, and very large, with long ranges of rooms. Within the past 60 years it has been occupied as a residence by a clerk to the magistrates, a lady of title, used as a large girls' school, also as a hostel for soldiers billeted in the district during the war

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March

#### DEATH OF MR. ERNEST JEFFREY

The sudden death of Mr. Ernest Jeffrey, late of 52, Langborough Road and of Denmark Street, Wokingham, at his residence in Caversham on Sunday at the age of 46 years came as a great blow to his many friends in Wokingham where he was well respected as an old resident.

He had been for nearly thirty years in the employ of Mr. W.T. Martin both at Wokingham and Reading. Mr. Martin as Mayor in 1912 appointed him one of the four Honorary Constables of the Borough, a position which he had occupied continuously since. He served in the war and was a member of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion.

The funeral service was held at the Wesleyan Church in Rose Street and he was interred in the Free Church burial ground, Reading Road.

MRS. SOPHIA MURDOCH OF BUCKHURST



Mrs. Sophia Murdoch of Buckhurst, Wokingham, is the widow of Mr. Charles Townsend Murdoch D.L., J.P., who, from 1885 to 1892, and again from 1895 to the time of his death in 1898, was Conservative Member of Parliament for Reading.

Daughter of Captain T.H. Speke, who in 1863 discovered the source of the Nile, Mrs. Murdoch's long public service is well known. She has always taken a very keen interest in, and rendered valuable assistance to, the cause of Conservatism in the country, and has been President of the Reading Women's Conservative Association. She was for some time a member of the Grand Council of the Primrose League and President of the Wokingham Women's Conservative Association. During the war and immediately after, Mrs. Murdoch devoted herself with great zeal and public spirit to several causes. She was honorary private secretary to H.R.H. Princess Christian in connection with the Soldiers' and sailors' Help Society in Berkshire, and later became honorary private H.R.H. Princess Helena Victoria, President of the League of Mercy, of which Mrs. Murdoch is a lady vice-president, and in which she takes a particular interest. With the assistance of her friends she was able to raise £3,600 for the provision of six cottage houses for disabled ex-Service men at Wantage. Mrs. Murdoch also acted as President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association for

Berks. She is a life president of the Berkshire operatic club, of which Princess Helena Victoria is Royal Patroness and keenly supports that organisation's efforts to help the hospitals. She is also secretary for the Waifs and Strays Society, the Women's House Mission and other charities, and is president of both the Reading and Wokingham branches of the Needlework Guild Society.

Her beautiful house at Wokingham has often been placed at the disposal of various deserving objects for the furtherance of their work.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April (extract)

LADY WINS AIR RACE  
Miss Spooner's Success at Woodley  
STUNT FLYING

Opening of Aero Club's Headquarters

The opening of the new club house of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Aero Club at Woodley Aerodrome near Reading, was made the occasion of an air pageant on Saturday, when between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators watched air races and thrilling stunts by some of the best-known pilots of the day. The clerk of the weather did his best to spoil the event, a morning's rain not having improved the state of the ground nor made flying conditions admirable. Fog over London also prevented the No.600 Auxilliary Squadron of the Royal Air Force from putting in an appearance, while Mr. John Tranium, the intrepid Parachutist, who was to have descended from a Desoutter air taxi, was unable to get across from the continent in time to put in an appearance. Despite these handicaps, the Pageant was carried through with success.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, A.F.C., the Director of Civil Aviation, was to have visited the pageant by air, but he was prevented from flying by the weather, and he made the journey by road. Other distinguished visitors included Lieut.-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, Captain the Right Hon. F. E. Guest (formerly Secretary of State for Air), Lord Wyfold, Miss Diana Guest, Miss Ariel Lee, Miss Beatrix Thompson, Colonel Thwaites, of the Air League, Sir Charles Russell, Mr. Arthur Russell, Col. A.F. Poulton (Chief Constable of Berkshire), Mr. T. A. Burrows (Chief Constable of Reading), Mr. W.J. Fryer, Mr. L. Noel Sutton, Miss "Toby" Cribb (hon. secretary of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Aero Club), etc.

The new club house was formally opened by Sir Leslie Wilson. The club house has been well built to suit the needs of the club members. It contains an up-to-date lounge, dining room, bar, dressing rooms, and residential accommodation with an excellent standard of catering. The provision of tennis courts and other social amenities at the club will naturally depend upon the extent of the membership. At the present rate of progress these additional attractions will soon be forthcoming, and will have a particular appeal to the non-flying members.

LADY WINS FIRST RACE

Miss Winifred Spooner, of Wokingham, the intrepid airwoman who has competed in the Air Derby for the King's Cup, won the first race, which was open to all private aircraft owners in Berks, Bucks and Oxon, and a trophy for which was presented by Sir Charles Russell. There were twelve entries altogether, and four competitors appeared in the final—Miss Spooner in a Gipsy Moth, Mr. M. Bainbridge and Mr. A. Jacksman, also in Gipsy Moths, and Mr. H.H. Leach, flying a Martlet. The four competitors taxied across the ground, and Miss Spooner was the first to take off. She increased her lead with every lap of six miles, and finished the 30 miles course in 18 mins. 38 secs., 11 seconds before the next competitor, Mr. M. Bainbridge. Her



“ground” speed was 106½ miles an hour, while that of Mr. Bainbridge was 105½ m.p.h. Mr. A. Jacksman finished third, and Mr. H.H. Leach brought up the tail end.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> July

#### SUCCESSFUL FETE

The fete held at High Close to raise funds for the purchase of cottages adjacent to All Saints’ Church, to be acquired by the parochial council, proved highly satisfactory. The takings amounted to £268 7s. 4d., while expenses were £34 14s. 3d., so that there was a satisfactory profit of £233 13s. 1d.

#### PALMER SCHOOL OUTING

On Friday last week a party of 150 scholars and teachers from the Palmer School (with Mr. H.F. Maidment, head master, in charge) journeyed to London in seven motor-coaches and visited St. Paul’s, Westminster Abbey and the Zoo, where they had tea. All arrangements worked smoothly.

#### TEST MATCH BY TELEVISION

On Saturday All Saints choir members, with Mr. A. Yould in charge, journeyed by motor-coaches to Brighton. The Rev. K. St. C. Thomas accompanied the party. Cricket enthusiasts of the party spent a long time in enjoyment of the television screen, which presented the Test match to an audience of some thousands.

#### SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO HORSE AND MAN

On Tuesday afternoon a workman was engaged in building up a manhole at a depth of 12 feet in Finchampstead Road, when suddenly the light at the top was blocked and a falling body descended upon him. The intruder was a carhorse, which became wedged in the hole. Fortunately the man escaped serious injury, but was cut about the face. He crawled out from the horse’s legs, mounted its back and emerged from the hole. The horse was cut about the head, but not badly. Attached to a cart, with a man seated in the cart driving, it seems to have walked into the hole, breaking the shafts. The horse was extricated by filling in the hole until the animal was able to step out at the top.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### THUNDERSTORM

Wokingham experienced an unusually severe thunderstorm on Friday night last week. Commencing about 10 p.m., it continued until past one in the morning. The lightning was of intense brilliance, while the flashes continued with the briefest of intervals throughout. The thunder was very loud. Rain fell heavily. Belated pedestrians enveloped in nerve-trying forked lightning, were in an unenviable position. The storm appears to have done no damage.

#### DOCTOR’S CAR ABLAZE

Driving his large Rover Six saloon motor-car near Ashridgewood, about seven o’clock on Friday evening last week, Dr. E.F. Smith, of Wokingham, became aware of trouble with the rear petrol tank, which burst into flames. The Wokingham Fire Brigade was called but were hampered by there being no adequate water supply available. The car burnt out by the roadside and a number of the doctor’s professional instruments were also destroyed. Dr. Smith, fortunately, escaped injury.

### NEW FIRE-FIGHTING APPLIANCE

On the leading Wokingham fire engine at the Carnival procession was one fireman of the Wokingham Brigade, who was equipped with new peroxide rescue apparatus, recently acquired by the brigade. This appliance enables its wearer safely to enter gas, smoke or poison fumes and is therefore, invaluable for rescue work in sewers and chemical works. When fitted and charged the apparatus, which is constructed of rubber, is as impervious to the outer air as a diving suit and this condition will continue for an hour ensuring perfect safety to the wearer.

A release of peppermint when approaching exhaustion of the peroxide, warns the wearer to give the signal for recall or to retire from his post for re-charge. The apparatus enables the wearer to submerge in water or liquid with perfect safety. The Wokingham Brigade has acquired one of three outfits at a cost of £14.

### CHARITY CARNIVAL AT WOKINGHAM

Town Given Up to Whole-Hearted Gaiety

#### PROCESSION, SPORTS, GAY COSTUMES, AND BABY SHOW.

Carnival reigned at Wokingham on Wednesday, when for a day and a night the townspeople and thousands of visitors who went to join in the fun, put aside all thought of work and sleep, and gave themselves up to revelry.

Wokingham had its first carnival last year, for local charities, and so successful and enjoyable the venture that it was decided to hold another Carnival this year, and to provide more amusements than ever. The programme for eighteen hours revelry was drawn up with such ingenuity that the Carnival was proclaimed even more enjoyable than last year. The whole town entered into the happy spirit of the occasion. All day and all night long the town was full of laughing, care-free people, and the Carnival was a credit to Wokingham.

#### ARREST OF MRS. GRUNDY IN MARKET PLACE

The fun began at 8 a.m., and when the hour struck a bugler heralded the opening of the carnival from the Town Hall. It was the signal for a small army of gay garbed collectors to get busy extracting by tact or torment as much money as they could from motorists and pedestrians. At 8.30 a.m. the diverting business of beating the bounds was gone through, and the crowded day of revelry included a beauty show, a baby show, games and sports, aerobatic display, carnival concerts, carnival dancing, carnival singing, carnival procession—carnival all the way. The streets were thronged with care-free people, while hundreds went to the carnival ground, a large field lent by the Misses Ellison and Mr. Halworth, to be delighted and amused by a succession of attractions such as Wokingham has never known before, not even last year, for the 1930 carnival was bigger and better and more breathless than the last.



## BEATING THE BOUNDS

The sun began to shine through the heavy morning mist when the business of beating the bounds was commenced with mock solemnity. Hundreds of people, included excited school children, were given a day's holiday, gathered at the town Hall at the ringing of the bell and the stentorian "O-yez, Oyez" of the town crier. The "bumpers" set off in parties to encircle the boundaries, the Mayor (Ald A.E. Priest) and other members of the Corporation going to the boundary stone in Reading Road, followed by motor-coach loads of singing school children. The Mayor donned his chain of office, and after speaking of the meaning of the ceremony, he was seized by four men, spreadeagled over the boundary stone, and duly "bumped" with the words, "This is the Borough boundary," his captors giving him a bump for each word, in order to impress the fact upon him. For the benefit of photographers, the Mayor was handled in this undignified manner three times, and then the Deputy Mayor (Councillor E.S. Whaley) was caught and bumped. More bumping followed, after which the Mayor took it out of a schoolboy by birching him over the boundary stone. The C'lect Erbs Band, arranged by Mr. E. Maris came along in their motor-lorry and entertained the company with a rip-roaring version of "The Stein Song," and parties were formed and set out right and left to traverse the boundary. The boys in the party which passed over the Emm Brook were ducked in the stream.

At the other end of the town another party was performing the bumping ceremony near the Plough Inn, with Ald. P. Sale as leader, and they divided and struck out in the opposite directions to meet the other two parties. One party met two policemen cycling into the town and duly bumped them. The whole boundary was traversed, and the "bumpers" arrived back in Wokingham about mid-day after jolly cross-country tramps on an invigorating September morning.

### TRIAL OF MRS. GRUNDY

Wokingham has no place for Mrs. Grundy and she was roughly handled and severely dealt with when she imposed her gloomy presence on the bright young people of the town. She appeared near Carnival house in Reading Road about 2 p.m. and was immediately beset by a bevy of scantily clad young ladies who chased and harassed her, knocking off her absurd little bonnet and disarranging her black voluminous clothes and big umbrella. The "police" were informed of her presence in the town and she was immediately arrested, taken to the Market Square for trial before the Mayor and a jury of young people

The Mayor presided and was defended by Mr. A. Rogers. Mr. Grundy defended.

Mrs. Grundy was charged with indecency on Carnival Day, and with a defiant attitude through the town.

A "constable" gave chase to the disturbance among the spectators. She had admitted quantities of beer; she had set off an imaginary fire at Bar



“constable.” “The old camel ought to be thrashed and I ought to be promoted for getting rid of her.”

Defending counsel said Mrs. Grundy was one of the most respectable citizens of Wokingham and she had been shocked and horrified to see a number of ladies in bathing costumes, “and they could not have been going to bathe,” added counsel, “because there was no bathing place in Wokingham.

Mrs. Grundy did not give evidence herself, but called two half-naked negroes, who testified that the lady had been upset by the sight of the bathing beauties.

Prosecuting counsel urged that the evidence of such people might be accepted in such outlandish places as Barkham and Arborfield, but it could not be accepted for a moment in such highly civilised and “refined” place as Wokingham.

The jury found the prisoner guilty without a moment’s hesitation, and before sentencing her the Mayor told her that Wokingham could not tolerate such people. The punishment of the court was that Mrs. Grundy should publicly beg pardon at the feet of the Carnival Queen and take part in the carnival procession, accompanied by two “policemen.” She collapsed on hearing the sentence and was carried out of court unconscious.

Then a fairy or something equally feisty took the stage and heralded the approach of the Carnival Queen (Miss Cynthia Potter, aged 11). She arrived with her retinue of bright young people and was crowned by the Mayoress, after which she drove away with the Mayoress and her retinue in open carriages drawn by horses to the carnival ground in Finchampstead Road, where hundreds of people had gathered for the afternoon’s proceedings. The merriment was also continued in the streets of the town, and Wokingham Band played outside the Town Hall.

## THE SPORTS

The sportsmen of the town took charge of the afternoon’s proceedings and entertained a large number of people in the large meadow at the corner of Finchampstead Road and Wellington Road. There were amusing events of all descriptions, while many found the side-shows and the air very attractive, chairoplanes, flying cockerels and a cakewalk proving particularly popular.

The comic football match was organised by the Wokingham Town Football Club, and was said to have been a representation of the great cup final at Wembley. It was certainly a cup final, judging by the vigour displayed by those taking part, but those who wish to see a real football match are still advised to go to Wembley. Whether the fact that the players were in fancy costume prevented them from telling for which side they were playing, it is difficult to say, but, at any rate, it did not seem to matter into which goal the ball went. Neither were their methods stopping opponents according to F.A. rules, but they were none the less effective. Hockey sticks seemed to be in frequent use, while one player found his umbrella extremely useful for stopping the ball. Whatever the result, it was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

## THE BEAUTY SHOW

Then came the chief event of the afternoon—the great beauty show. The beauty show was open to both ladies and gentlemen, but they seemed to be all strong, silent men at Wokingham, and rather frightened of the limelight. The ladies, however, determined to show how brave the weaker sex can be on occasions, and there was a bevy of beautiful lasses to be judged. The judges were Councillor Major Greenstreet and Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, and they made their awards as under: 1, Grace Gudgeon; 2, Eileen Lailey; 3, Mrs. J.A. Walker. The programme stated that Wokingham has always been famous as the home of feminine beauty. Those who saw

the beauty show were unanimous in this opinion, including Mr. Donovan Watts, the organiser.

#### **VISIT OF THE "ALL BLACKS."**

Having beaten the M.C.C. at cricket, the Wokingham Cricket Club have become so proud of themselves that many of the members have had to buy new hats. These were displayed at the carnival when the club challenged the famous "All Blacks" at Rugger. The term "All Blacks" was rightly used, although the application of a little water might have made a big difference. However, the "All Blacks" proceeded to show the lads of Wokingham how Rugger should be played, and won a hard-fought match by several tries—jolly good tries, in fact. It was a hard-fought match in the sense that both teams turned out in sacks, and the object of the game was not so much to propel the ball towards goal as to disrobe one's opponents or whoever happened to be standing nearby. In fact, according to the rules of the game, which were quite definitely given in the carnival programme, it was stated that the side which lost all its clothing first would be the winners. It was, therefore, quite a judicious warning to spectators not to trespass on the pitch. After the sacks and other articles of clothing had been removed the players settled down to serious play, but it was fairly obvious that the rules of the game had been "slightly" amended for this particular match. It was jolly good fun, however, and the players entered into the spirit of the thing with zeal. One player wore a straw hat, which suffered a rather untimely fate, while another found a "topper" rather awkward to negotiate in the scrum.

Further fun was provided by the comic obstacle race, the competitors having to go through a tank of water, crawl under a tarpaulin smothered in red ochre, and then burst a bag of flour, not to mention emptying a sack of feathers. This had to be done twice, and a number of the competitors were glad to get into the water afterwards to remove some of their "red skin." The winner of this event was I. Murphy, R. Dunn being second and I. Smith third. A five-miles marathon race was also run and this was won by T. Stepp, a veteran of over 40 years, second place being gained by E. Watts and third by G. Jones. One competitor started a quarter of an hour late and would have won, for he finished in a faster time than the winner. Seven competitors took part in the race.

Then to complete the programme of sports events, half an hour of thrills was provided by the aerobatic display organised by Messrs. Phillips and Powis Aircraft (Reading), Ltd. Four machines came over and performed a number of stunts, including stalling, banking, spinning, looping the loop and nose diving. Then there was a bombing display' a moving motor car, driven by Mr. Kennedy, in the centre of the arena, being the target. The car was struck on one occasion by the intrepid flyers, who also "bombed" one section of the public thereby causing much amusement. It was a very clever display, and greatly appreciated.

#### **BABY SHOW**

The infant section of the population was brought out in full force in the afternoon for the baby show, and 81 sturdy mites kicked and struggled on the scales and made quite as much noise as the carnival revellers in the streets of the town. No fewer than 56?? Of these youngsters were under one year old, and they had the Orthopaedic Clinic all to themselves, the older children being judged at the Town Hall.

Mrs. E.S. Whaley organised the baby show, and the judges were Nurse Sanderoff, Wokingham, and Nurses Derrick, Jeffs and Eustace, of Reading. Members of the local V.A.D. also assisted at the show.

The winning babies were as follows:-

Under one year.-1, Barbara Button; 2, Joan Ann Rogers; 3, Cora Vera McLean; 4, Yvonne Griffiths; 5, Raymond Trevor Bristow.

Under two years.-1, Diana Keeling; 2, Roy Herbert Graves; 3, David Jones.

Under three years:-1, Molly King; 2, Audrey Burt; 2, Kenneth Willis.

Under four years:-1, Cyril Band.

Special prizes for twins.-1, Gilbert and Gwendoline Matthews; 2, Brian and Jean Watts.

## CARNIVAL PROCESSION

The carnival reached its climax with the procession in the early evening. All the bizarre characters who had capered around the town during the day were there, and were joined by many others who donned weird and wonderful costumes for the night's revelry. Scores of children were ingeniously dressed for the occasion, and decorated vehicles and tableaux on wheels were a splendid feature of the procession. One of the tableaux represented "Wokingham's Lido, with apologies to Heath Robinson and Wokingham Town Council. Bathing beauties reclined outside the bath, and a tar boiler, towed behind the lorry, was brought into use as a Turkish bath. Another vehicle contained all the characters in "Widdicombe Fair" astride the old grey mare; there were ferocious motor-bandits with bags of gold on the radiator of their car, the skull and crossbones emblazoned on the paintwork and the dread word "blud" aloft on their pennant. A group of carnival spirits walked with a replica of the town clock, on the face of which were the words "Carnival Time" in place of the numerals. There were a number of ingeniously decorated cycles, including a tricycle cleverly built up with large quantities of heather to represent a small saloon motor car, and in the tableau demonstration of trade. There was nothing better than Mr. Giles' lorry representing painting and sign writing.

Well known ladies and gentlemen in the district acted as judges and marshals, and the prize winners were as follows:-

Decorated vehicle 1, Messrs. Jefferies; 2, Messrs Froude and Barrett; 3, Mr. D. Waite.

Decorated bicycle or tricycle:- 1, Miss Yalden,; 2, Mrs. Davis

Tableau on wheels:- 1. Mr. Thorne

Ladies demonstration of trade:- 1, Mr. Giles; 2, Messrs. Hussey.

Farmer or traders' turnout:- 1, Mr. Loader.

Pedestrian costume ladies:- 1, Mrs. Valleley; 2, Mrs. Cox; 3, Miss Ravening; h.c., Mrs. Carter. Gentlemen:- 1, Messrs Gleed; 2, Mr. Barker; 3, Mr. Eales. Boys:- 1, H. Reed; 2, Donald Abraham; 3, Bobby Simmonds; h.c., K. Pester. Girls: 1, Cissie Douglas; 2, Flossie Brant; 3, F. Hopkins; h.c., M. Heasman.

Childrens' paper costumes:- 1, Joyce Collyer; 2, Horace Simmonds; 3, Elsie Slade.

Pram or fairy cycle:- (children):- 1, L. Millard; 2, Elsie Chandler.

Open class:- 1, Messrs. Hare and Webb; 2, Mr. Trill.

The Wokingham Town and British Military Bands were in the procession with the Wokingham and Hartley Wintney Fire Brigades and the local ambulance and V.A.D. representatives, and near the head of the procession the Carnival Queen drove in her carriage with a maid of honour, while her other attendants followed in the Mayor's car.

## BATTLE OF CONFETTI

After parading the town the procession assembled in the Market Square, where confetti fell like snow among a dense crowd of people. The Mayoress presented the carnival prizes, and later when darkness fell and the town was lit up with coloured lights there was hearty community singing. People continued the revelries in the



streets until a late hour, while others enjoyed themselves at the carnival fair. Hundreds more attended the carnival whist drive at the British Legion Hall and the carnival dances at the Town Hall, where the Harmony Orchestra played, and the Drill Hall, where the Cabaret Dance Band played. At the Drill Hall a demonstration dance was given by Miss H. Dyer and Mr. I. Carter. Dancing was continued until 2 a.m.

### CARNIVAL POSERS

One incident of the day was the search for Mr. and Mrs. Carnival Spirit, who were reported missing from their home at 1 p.m. A description was posted outside the Town Hall and a reward was offered for the persons who correctly challenged them. It was helpful to the searchers to know that Mr. Carnival Spirit had a liking for treacle tart, Omar Khayyam and the ladies, while his wife was partial to spaghetti and "googly" bowlers. Scores of people were challenged as being the missing persons, and the competition developed into a very amusing affair. Many people also joined in a search for a pirate's hoard of gold, the hiding place of which was known only to a dashing detective named Dinky Doo. To locate the spot it was necessary to solve a coded sentence, and many people spent a long time hovering round the spot where they thought the treasure lay, trying to solve the riddle. Another treasure competition was held on the carnival ground where "Klondyke claims" were staked.

The biggest lump of coal ever seen in Wokingham was offered for the best guess at its weight. This was given by Mr. G.J. Jeffries, and it was large enough to keep a household fire going for many weeks.

There was also a competition for a clock, given by Mr. A.E. Crew. The clock was wound up by the Mayor on the morning of the carnival, and it will be presented to the person guessing the correct or nearest time of stopping.

Guineas were given for lucky number programmes, and the winners are the holders of programmes numbered 1,885, 3,930 and 287.

The clock competition was won by Mr. E. Langley. Mrs. Eales, the Terrace, Wokingham, won the coal competition. The lump of coal weighed 17 cwts. 50 lbs., and Mrs. Eales guessed within seven pounds of the correct weight. The winning Klondyke claims were 63 and 73, and some adventurer found and carried off the pirate's treasure (a voucher), which has not yet been presented.

### PRIZE DECORATIONS

The request of the Decorations Committee that tradespeople and householders should decorate the outside of their premises was readily acceded to. The prize-winners were :-

Decorated shop or window.-1, London Central Meat Co.; 2, Foy's Stores; 3, Misses Berry, Broad Street.

Decorated house.-1, G. Townsend, Peach Street; 2, Mrs Harwood, Rose Street.

Decorated cottage.-1, Mrs. Bass, Denmark Street; 2, Mrs. Band.

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

(listed)

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

Mrs. E.S. Whaley  
of Crescent Road, Wokingham.



Mrs. Whaley is the wife of Councillor E.S. Whaley, the Deputy Mayor of Wokingham. She was the Mayoress during the year 1928-29.

During her year of office, the Wokingham Maternity and Child Welfare was formed for Wokingham and the neighbouring district. She is keenly interested in that work and is the hon. secretary of the centre. At the present time there are over 100 children who, from time to time, attend the branch and receive medical attention.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Nov

### WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE

#### Fancy dress Ball

The third annual dress ball of the Wokingham Fire Brigade was held in the Drill Hall, on Monday. The sub-committee of the Brigade, with Engineer E.P. Osmond, its efficient hon., secretary, are to be congratulated upon a brilliant success. The ball was placed under a typical fire brigade scheme of decoration. Behind the band platform was a striking painting, a replica of the Fire Station, Town Hall; with arch, buttresses, and red doors with fire station and lamp above so marked. Within, behind the glass, was depicted the latest motor engine and escape. Six fine hand-painted panels representing various houses-Dutch, Chinese, Grecian, English, Swiss and Hindoo graced the walls. This artistic work was all done by Fireman R. Giles. Streamers in the national colours, badges of the National Fire Brigade Association, the colours of the Wokingham Brigade (blue and gold), with box lanterns and frieze (kindly loaned by Mr. Cathrow Martin), with evergreens and special lighting made an ideal ballroom, in which trophies of firemen's helmets, and fire-fighting appliances glittered and shone. Music for dancing was supplied by Frank Dyer's Symphonic Dance Orchestra, from Oxford, while Messrs. Perkins Bros. lent a gramophone. The furnishing was done by Mr. T. M. Welch, and the catering by Mr. E.P. Osmond, caterer, of Peach Street. Ex-Insp. Haddrell undertook duty at the door.

The attendance was very large and included the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Priest), a very representative gathering of the townspeople, also visitors from Maidenhead Fire Brigade (in uniform) under Third Officer E. Blay, and parties from Hartley Wintney, etc. The costumes were not very numerous, but were of a high order of merit. Very noticeable and beautiful were the ball costumes of ladies not in fancy dress, the vogue of ankle-length skirts predominating. At midnight, Fireman R. Giles introduced into the darkened hall his "Boneyard Blues," in which ghostly skeletons in luminous paint appeared with weird and thrilling effect.

Prizes were won as under:-Most original fancy dress costume in hall, Mrs. E.H. Perkins, "Midget Golf"; best home-made costume, Miss Harwood, "Cleopatra"; ditto gentlemen's, Mr. G. Gough, "Spaniard"; best hired costume (1) Miss A. Miller, "Victorian Lady," (2) Miss K. Miller, "17<sup>th</sup> Century"; consolation prize, little Moirs Maddams, "Pineapple."

Other notable costumes were Miss M. Palmer, "Carnival"; Miss Clements, "oranges and Lemons"; Mrs. Orchard, "Spanish Lady"; Mr. Carpenter, "Mexican"; Mr. E.J. Ward, "Russian."

Prizes were given by Mrs. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Crawley, Alderman W.T. Martin, J.P., Dr. H.F. Curl, Supt. Goddard, Mr. H. Spencer, "A Well-wisher," the Fire



Brigade, Mr. Orchard, Mr. Bassett, Mr. F. Hatfield, Mr. H. Bowyer, and Mr. A. E. Crew.

Lady Wilson (with whom was Sir Leslie Wilson) distributed the prizes.

Captain W.B. Martin thanked Lady Wilson and Sir Leslie Wilson for their interest and presence. He also expressed thanks on behalf of the brigade to all who had worked and contributed to the success of the ball.

Sir Leslie Wilson replying, expressed the pleasure of Lady Wilson and himself to be there. The brigade were deserving of every support, and he hoped those who had not yet commenced to support the brigade would hurry up and do so. (Applause.)

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Dec

### WOKINGHAM'S WELCOME

Civic reception for Miss Spooner

### MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

Cheers for "Daring and Plucky Lady."

The people of Wokingham, summoned at short notice by the town crier, came to the Market Place on Monday to honour Miss Spooner, the famous airwoman. On four previous occasions arrangements had been completed to welcome her, but weather conditions had prevented her from flying from Paris to Wokingham, as she had intended, and eventually she had to travel by train and boat during the week-end, arriving in Wokingham on Sunday, after receiving a great welcome in London at Victoria Station.

With Flying Officer E.C.T. Edwards she was attempting to fly from Croydon to Cape Town, when their machine fell into the sea off Southern Italy and she swam ashore and obtained assistance for her companion.

### SEATED ON THE FIRE ENGINE



Miss Spooner made the journey to the Town Hall on the Wokingham fire engine, seated beside the driver and accompanied by Miss D. Wescott, the senior lady member of the council, and with the firemen standing, on the side. Cheers from the crowd announced her arrival, and she had to face a squad of photographers and cinematograph operators.

The Mayor (Ald. A. E. Priest,) in his scarlet robes and holding, his cocked hat, in his hand, advanced to meet her at the Town Hall steps and shook Miss Spooner by the

hand, The background was filled by aldermen and councillors, the sergeant at-mace carrying the mace of the borough, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, all wearing their robes. Room was also found for Mr. Arthur T. Heelas; who was mainly responsible for the welcome. Miss Spooner all smiles, received a large and beautiful bouquet of red carnations tied with scarlet ribbon.

The town crier having called for silence, the Mayor stepped forward to give, in the name of the town, the welcome which had been arranged. The Mayor said:-

“The pleasure we have to-day has been long delayed, but we have now the opportunity to honour our fellow citizen, Miss Winifred Spooner. It is with pride and gratification we welcome one who has been rightly described a world’s heroine, and a wonderful aviator. Miss Spooner’s name is a household word not only in our land, but also in other parts of the world, and people in other lands have done what we are doing today, but ours is the greater pleasure in giving this honour, because she is one of us and a resident of Wokingham.

#### SHEER PLUCK AND ENDURANCE

In her recent great attempt to beat the world record flight from Croydon to Cape Town, it was certainly no fault of hers she was unsuccessful, but Miss Spooner accomplished something even greater, when in the performance of a deed of valour and by sheer pluck and endurance she made such a gallant effort secure help to save th life of her companion. Such an effort, knowing the circumstances as we do calls for the highest admiration and praise, and we are proud to say she belongs to Wokingham. In any further flying attempt or attempts she may make we offer her our sincerest good wishes. and wish her the best of luck and good fortune. Moving spirits have been actively engaged during the past week, endeavouring to bring this about, and determined if anyhow possible that a welcome should be given.

Throughout the land, men, women and children have read. the recent story of courage and grit displayed by Miss Spooner, and the town of Wokingham, I have found, wished to pay tribute to one whose bravery "and daring have thrilled the world.

Can we picture to ourselves the scene, when the aeroplane carrying this gallant lady and her companion crashed into the .sea, the long waiting for help, and then, risking all dangers, the decision to swim for assistance? Truly an act of supreme bravery.

Wokingham can proudly claim its share of heroes and heroines—in more ways than one—of those who have been closely associated with our town. We think of Mr. A.P.F. Chapman, that great English cricket captain, Miss Joan Fry, that great tennis player, and now in a more serious direction, Miss Winifred Spooner. My only hope is that for anything I have said today, Miss Spooner will not be kind enough to invite me to take a flight, as I am not at all keen on taking to the air.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to join with me in true English fashion in three hearty cheers for the daring and plucky lady we are honouring today?” Led by the Mayor, resounding cheers were given.



### MISS SPOONER ON HER FAILURE

Replying, Miss Spooner said: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your marvellous welcome and for all the extraordinarily nice and complimentary things which the Mayor has said about me, which I feel that I do not in the least deserve. I am afraid I look on my recent effort as a failure as I did not accomplish what I set out to do, and all these remarks which you have made make me feel somewhat of an imposter, especially as there was no actual decision on my part to swim ashore. Fate decreed that I should come to the surface before the plane, and as there was nothing to cling to there was nothing else for me to do but swim to the shore. However I do really thank you for your welcome."

At an informal gathering in the Council Chamber, Miss Spooner, who was accompanied by her brother, Capt. F.V. Spooner, had the members of the council and the fire brigade presented to her by the Mayor. At the Mayor's call Miss Spooner's health was drunk, Alderman Priest remarking: "Better luck next time, and we wish you all the best of luck."

Thus was Miss Spooner welcomed back to Wokingham.

### NO PLANS FOR FUTURE FLIGHTS

Miss Spooner afterwards told a representative of this paper that she had no plans for future flights at present. Regarding the rumours which were circulated that Miss Spooner was a passenger on the ill-fated R 101, she said: "I cannot understand how that should come to be said. I have heard of many enquiries asking if I am still alive. Perhaps this official welcome will establish the fact that I am really alive."

It was revealed, however, that Miss Spooner took Sir Sefton Brancker from Ipswich to Cardington by air for him to join the airship, and she was one of the last to speak to him before the vessel left. She was a personal friend of Sir Sefton and had frequently piloted 'planes in which he made journeys.

1931

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Jan

### MISS WINIFRED SPOONER FINED

#### Why She Likes Flying

The air-woman, Miss Winifred Evelyn Spooner, of 4, South Drive, Wokingham was summoned at the Reading Borough Bench on Wednesday for leaving her car longer than necessary, and also for having no front or rear lights. She admitted all three offences.

P.C. Seager said he saw the car standing in Broad Street, Reading, at four o'clock. At 4.30 it was still there and he placed a warning notice in it. The lights were not switched on, and lighting-up time was nine minutes previous to this. Defendant did not return to the car until 5.45. When she was told that she would be reported Miss Spooner replied, "I have been reported here before for the same offence. I suppose you must report me, I am used to it."

Miss Spooner apologised for the offence and said she was doing business and forgot the time.

Supt. Osborne said there were no previous motoring offences recorded against Miss Spooner in Reading.

The chairman, E.O. Farrer, Esq. "And none in the air?"

Miss Spooner, "There were no policemen in the air. That's why I like it."

She was fined 30s. on the first summons and 8s. for having no lights.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### DEATH OF THE REV. H.M. WALTER

35 Years at Wokingham.

#### RURAL DEAN'S GLOWING TRIBUTE

The Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, the Rev. Henry Major Walter, M.A., a son of the late John Walter, of Bear Wood, passed away on Saturday morning at 11.30, having succumbed to an attack of bronchitis. On the preceding Sunday week he officiated at his church and preached. A few days later he was laid aside with the illness that proved fatal. He was 81 years of age having been born on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1850. He was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford. He was ordained priest in 1878, and, after serving at Ramsgate and St. George's, Hanover Square, he was appointed Rector of Bear Wood in 1891. In 1896 he became Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, where he faithfully served for 35 years. He married in 1876 Charlotte Isabella Anson, who, with their son and two daughters, survive him.

At Eton he won distinction at cricket, and years back at Wokingham and district, he frequently enjoyed the national game as a member of the Wokingham cricket Club and the Wokingham Excelsior C.C.

He found time in the midst of his earnest and faithful parish work to act as a member of the Wokingham Police Court Mission, the Wokingham Charity Trustee Board, the local Education Committee of the Berkshire County Council (evening classes), etc. He will be greatly missed for his quiet, unobtrusive generosity, his wonderful voice as a reader, and his true devotion to and friendship with his flock.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### FURTHER POST OFFICE FACILITIES

A public telephone call office and a kiosk for use when the post office is closed have been opened at the Langborough Road Sub-Post Office

#### PORTRAIT UNVEILED

The Wesleyan Sunday School was crowded on Sunday afternoon with scholars, teachers, parents and friends on the occasion of the unveiling of a large portrait of the late Mr. W.G. Jeffries, who for ten years was the beloved superintendent of the school. The Rev. T. Martin in the presence of Mr. E.H. Perkins, the present superintendent, Mr. H. Brown and other visitors, unveiled the portrait, and spoke of the earnest work and consistent life of the late superintendent. Miss Dorothy Blake received a medal for ten years' perfect attendance.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb (extract)

#### WOKINGHAM CLUB

A Gratifying Balance Sheet

NEW BOWLING GREEN

Generosity of Mrs. Howard Palmer

Mr. R.H.R. Palmer (President) presided at the annual meeting of the Wokingham Club, held in the Concert Hall on Friday last week. There was a good attendance of Members.

The balance sheet, produced by the secretary, Mr. W. Deane, indicated a substantial increase in the bar takings, showing a profit of £271 4s. 3d., an increase of £80 18s.

2d. upon last year's returns. The revenue account showed a balance of £145 11s. in favour of income, after allowing for the deficit last year of £7 15s. 3d. Subscriptions had increased by £16, billiards receipts by £14, and the income from sports and games by £44.

#### BOWLING GREEN GIFT

The secretary in his report stated that the executive committee had spent £31 in relaying about two-thirds of the present bowling green with new turves. The lengthening of the green was carried out by some of the members, for which the executive committee was grateful. As the members were aware their president and Mrs. Howard Palmer had kindly provided the club with a new bowling green, and they were defraying all costs in connection with its preparation and laying down. The green was to be named the Howard Palmer bowling green (attached to the Wokingham club). The sincere thanks of the club were due to them for their generosity. The president had also provided for the Concert Hall a kitchen and ladies' cloakroom, which would prove a source of more income to the club. He thanked the bowls and billiards committee for running whist drives, etc., which had brought in considerable income. Great help was afforded to the sports committee by a ladies' committee, which had rendered much assistance in making the whist drives, etc., a great success. The thanks of the club were due to the president, Mr. R. Palmer, the hon. Auditor, Mr. T.W. Park, the bar stocktaker, Mr. A.J. Cainan, and the librarian, Mr. C. Brant. It was with regret that the committee had to record the death of Mr. William Palmer, a very old member and once a trustee of the club.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On the proposition of Mr. A. E. Moreland, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer was unanimously re-elected president, Alderman A.E. Priest seconded.

Mr. Palmer, in returning thanks, said he felt it a great honour to be president of the club. It was one of the five organisations in Wokingham, and he liked being president of the club. He also happened to be landlord of the club, but he hoped he did not in any way influence them to elect him president. He had the affairs of the club very much at heart. During the last two or three years the club had really gone ahead; it was very gratifying to all those present, He wanted it clearly understood that he was not giving the bowling green. They had for years been looking for a suitable piece of land near the club, but until recently none had been in the market. He had recently been able to purchase a suitable piece, for which he was charging the club a right and proper rent. The gift was from his mother, who was laying down the bowling green free of charge in memory of his father, Mr. Howard Palmer.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

With regard to the municipal buildings, the borough surveyor reported that the work of redecorating the bank room, committee room and the auctioneer's room had been carried out, the material having been given by Alderman Hughes. It was agreed that the thanks of the council be tendered to Alderman Hughes for his generosity. The borough surveyor reported that the lowest tender, that of Mr. C.K. Foy, for the electric lighting of the Town Hall, had been accepted, and that the work of wiring had been commenced.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### WOKINGHAM FIRE BRIGADE Efficiency of the Fire Fighters

A happy evening was spent at Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday, when the Wokingham Fire Brigade held their annual dinner, the honorary surgeon, Dr. H.F. Curl, presiding over a large gathering. The Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) presented a medal for 20 years' service to Engineer Painter and five years' service bars to Capt. Martin, Lt. Knight and Fireman Dearlove. Other brigades represented at the dinner were Reading, Aldershot, Bracknell and Ascot.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April

#### CHANGE-OVER AT POST OFFICE

At the Post Office on Wednesday, the change-over from the old telephone system and services to the new was made, thus completing the coming into full action of the new Post Office Buildings at the rear of the present public part of the Post Office. The number of subscribers taken over is 460. The new building is strongly built of brick with massive iron girders, is some 90 feet long by 36 feet wide, and covers an area of 3,240 square feet. The ground floor is taken up with a large sorting room. In addition there are two rooms for the use of the P.O. engineers and linesmen. The upper floor is taken up mainly with the telephone system.

The growth of the telephone service necessitated by the rapid expansion of the town and neighbourhood has rendered necessary the provision of a new exchange and the opportunity has been taken to install a new type of equipment known as the "Central Battery." Under this system, the removal by the subscriber of the receiver from its rest calls the exchange and its replacement gives a clearing signal. This new exchange has a capacity to accommodate a maximum of 1,500 subscriber lines.

Messrs. E.C. Hughes and Co., Wokingham, were the builders, their works foreman, Mr. W. Band, of Wokingham, putting in excellent work. The removal of the old exchange will enable the demolition of the remaining old premises to be proceeded with when a new building for public use will be erected in the street front.

Electric lighting has been installed by the Yorktown (Camberley) and District Gas and Electricity Company. The Post Master has invited subscribers to inspect, by arrangement with him, the new premises.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### MEMORIAL BOWLING GREEN Handsome Gift to Wokingham Club OPENING BY MRS. HOWARD PALMER

The opening of the Howard Palmer Bowling Green (attached to the Wokingham Club) was performed on Wednesday by Mrs. Howard Palmer, widow of the former president of the club. The need for a full-sized bowling green for the club has long been felt, and the necessary ground was purchased by the president of the club, Mr. R.H.R. Palmer, and the cost of laying it down defrayed by his mother, Mrs. Howard Palmer.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Ald. And Mrs. A.E. Priest), Sir Leslie Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R.H.R. Palmer, Mr. G.H. Dowty (chairman of the Executive Committee), Mrs. F.A. Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. Cronshaw, Mr. Noel Sutton, Mr. S. Beale, the Rev. H. Collier, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Mr. J. H. Elliston Clifton, Dr. H.F. Curl, Ald. M. Blake, Mr. Swann, Mr. W. Dimpleby, Mr. F. Palmer, Mr. H. Watts, Mr. C.A. Bullett, Mr. A.E. Hall and many others. Mrs. Howard Palmer was introduced to the members of the executive and bowling committees.

Mr. Howard Palmer's Example

Mr. Dowty extended a welcome to all those present, and Sir Leslie Wilson then formally invited Mrs. Palmer to declare the green open. In doing so, he said they were essentially a very friendly town, and there was no one who did more to promote the social amenities of the town and district than the late Mr. Howard Palmer. He gave a great deal of time in assisting the town and district, and no more striking example was to be found than that club. He purchased the present club premises, and, as president, added a billiards room and concert hall. One of their desires was to have a bowling green, and for that purpose Mr. R.H.R. Palmer purchased the ground, while Mrs. Howard Palmer was responsible for the laying out of it.

Mrs. Howard Palmer then declared the green open and bowled the first wood.

Mr. Dowty thanked Mrs. Palmer for opening the green and for all she had done. He expressed thanks to Mr. R.H.R. Palmer and congratulated him upon his appointment as joint Master of the Garth Hunt. He also thanked Sir Leslie Wilson and Mr. Frank Palmer and his men for the work they had done in erecting the pavilion.

#### A SURPRISE

Miss Eileen Watts then emerged from a large coloured ball on the green and presented mounted silver jacks to Mrs. Howard Palmer and Mr. R.H.R. Palmer.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> May

#### READING AERO CLUB (Extract)

Opening of New Headquarters.

A Ladies' Race.

Director of Civil Aviation at Woodley.

Reading's new aero club at Woodley was opened on Saturday by the Director of Civil Aviation (Lieut.-Col F.C. Shelmerdine) in heavy rain. Lieut.-Col Shelmerdine, who flew with Mrs. Shelmerdine from Heston, Middlesex, in a Puss moth, made one of his first official public appearances. A large club-house has been erected by Messrs. Phillips and Powis, and already the club has a good membership.

Lt.-Col and Mrs. Shelmerdine were met by the president of the club, Lord Northesk, who was accompanied by Lady Northesk and the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor and Mrs. F.G. Sainsbury. Lieut. Col. Shelmerdine and his wife were made life members of the club.

Over 40 machines arrived, and following the opening there was a programme of aerobatics and stunt flying.

Ladies' Race.

Miss Amy Johnson, Miss Winifred Spooner and Miss Gower (daughter of Sir Robert Gower, M.P.) were among those who entered for the ladies' handicap race for the president's cup. The race was flown in two heats, and the course was from the aerodrome to St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on to Twyford station and back to the starting place. The competitors had to fly the course once in the heats and twice in the final. The results were: Heat 1: Miss Amy Johnson, 88.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Aitken, 87.5 m.p.h.; Miss Crossley, 86 m.p.h. Heat 2: 1, Miss Burr, 78.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Gower, 93 m.p.h.; 3, Miss Spooner, 106 m.p.h.; 4, Miss Slade, 93 m.p.h.; 5, Mrs. Young, 90 m.p.h. Final: 1, Miss Aitken, 97.5 m.p.h.; 2, Miss Gower, 95.5 m.p.h.; 3, Miss Amy Johnson, 98.5 m.p.h.; 4, Miss Burr, 79 m.p.h.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### NO CARNIVAL THIS YEAR

The Mayor of Wokingham presided over a moderately attended meeting of the townspeople to consider the possibility of holding a carnival again this year. Among

those present were Councillor Barrett and Councillor Wilson, supporting the Mayor on the platform, councillors E.S. Whaley, F.S. Perkins and W.C. Fullbrook, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, Mr. G. Gough (hon. secretary, Wokingham Hospital Committee), Mr. F. Butler (assistant hon. secretary, ditto) and many of the members of that committee, Mr. T. Maris, Mr. F. Every (Town Band), Mr. S. Ayers and a number of ladies.

The Mayor said the object of the meeting was to inquire what help would be forthcoming in the event of a carnival being again held. The promise of £800 to be raised for the Royal Berkshire Hospital through the local committee was a big thing, and one proposal was to have a day set apart to assist that object. The question of a usual carnival in face of that was a difficult matter.

By a considerable majority the meeting decided that a carnival be not held, especially in view of the forthcoming big effort for the hospital.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June

OPENING OF NEW GREEN  
Wokingham Bowling Club  
GIFT TO THE MAYOR

The official opening of the Wokingham Bowling Club green, Reading Road, took place on Wednesday in the presence of a representative company. The president, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton, and his committee, with Mr. T.W. Park, hon. secretary and treasurer must have been pleased with the large attendance, which included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham, Alderman A. E. and Mrs. Priest, Mr. T. Campbell Dykes (president), and following members of the Berks County Bowling Association Executive: Messrs. R. Crosby, T. Tickle, H.V. Bull, P.J. Drew, N. Butler, H.A. Farley, S. Brown, H. Johns, F.T. Thorpe, E. Shuttle, H.Y. Lawrence, W.S. Medcalf, G.E. Hawes, H.E. Bartlett and W.E. Cumming (who later played a game with the home club team). Councillors E.S. Whaley, F.J. Barrett, G.C. Wilson, Dr. Ward, H.E. Bennett, Dr. Curl, Councillor (Mrs.) Griffith, Mr. J. Rolt, K.C., Messrs R.H. Shipp, H. watts, G. Marshall, H. Bowyer, G.S. Reed, W. Wiskson, G. Jenkins, F.W. Cordery, A.J. Briden, S. Burrows, H.G. Breach, C.W. Marks, C. Sparkes, W.J. Breach, Rev. H. Collier, Messrs. W.P. Tucker, H. Painter, H.M. Lewis, T. Payne, F.H.J. Crocker, Shearn, E.J. Scrivener, W.H. Martin, A.J. Priest, etc., and a large number of ladies.

The well-appointed green, with its surrounding trees and flowering shrubs, together with the comfortable pavilion, evoked much commendation.

Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton said he had been asked to invite the Mayor to declare the green open. Mr. Clifton called attention to the excellence of the green admirably laid by the contractors, Messrs Wood and Son, of Taplow, despite enormous difficulties of level etc. He drew attention to the pavilion admirably designed, the architect being their chairman, Mr. H.E. Bennett, who had been indefatigable, and erected by Messrs. Marfell and Co. They thanked Mr. Garnet Hall of his suggested gift of a sun dial. Mr. H.E. Bennett and Mr. T.W. Park, their secretary, had done admirable work and deserved their best thanks. The financial position showed that subscriptions and proceeds of whist drive amounted to £150. The bank had given them the large credit of £600. He welcomed Mr. Campbell Dykes and the visiting team. He was proud indeed that they had come over to open their green. (Applause).

The Mayor said a year ago it was very difficult to say where and how a bowling green could be provided for Wokingham, but the generosity and public spirit of local residents triumphed. Mr. Clifton's help and sympathy had been a very great support and he (the Mayor) endorsed all that had been said about Mr. Bennett and Mr. Park,



and the members of the executive. On behalf of the town he thanked all who had worked so hard. The bowling green was not only a great asset to the town in finding pleasure for residents, but it was an attraction to visitors. Mr. Clifton had given a handsome donation and the legal advice necessary as well as generous terms as to the payment of the rent. (Applause).

#### Gift for the Mayor

Mr. Clifton presented the Mayor with a handsome "jack" on a turned stand, the former bearing a silver plate inscribed: "Wokingham Bowling Club, Opened June 10<sup>th</sup> 1931. To be used not on this green but for himself because of our personal regard, respect and esteem we have for him." The Mayor suitably acknowledged the gift.

Dr. Curl, in a humorous speech in which he indicated some of the uses to which the gift might not be put, introduced Mr. Campbell Dykes, who presented Mr. Clifton with a similar trophy to the Mayor's. Mr. Dykes remarked that it was the first green he had had the chance of opening. He felt a greater pride in handing the gift to their president (whom he had known many years) on behalf of the Wokingham Bowling Club. He hoped it would ever remind him of the club's sense of the deep debt it owed to him, and which they could never repay.

Mr. Clifton responded.

Miss Perk then presented the Mayoress with a beautiful circular mirror, with porcelain floral frame, remarking: "The ladies of the committee present the Mayoress with a memento of the opening of the green."

The Mayor then sent down the first wood after which the game v. Berks County Bowling Association proceeded.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### WOKINGHAM ALL SAINTS Queen Mary's Delightful Gift SUCCESSFUL FETE

#### Varied "Lots" From Notable Donors Auctioned

The annual parochial church fete of All Saints' (Rev. Canon Long, Rural Dean and Rector), under the title of "Fancy Fayre and Fete," was held on Wednesday on the lawn and in the meadow of "High Close" Wiltshire Road, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, O.B.E. The fete was arranged by the Parochial Church Council and proceeds are to be devoted to parish funds. Mr. T.W. Park is the council and fete hon. secretary.

There was a sale of various articles that had been given. Mrs. Corfield had taken the greatest interest in obtaining gifts from leading people and had been eminently successful.

H.M. the queen graciously sent a gift, which was accompanied by the following letter:-

Sandringham, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1931.

Dear Mrs Corfield,-Many thanks for your letter and the Queen commands me to send you at once this little lace cover as a gift for the bazaar on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for All Saints' Church, Wokingham.

Her Majesty hopes you will be able to sell it.

Yours sincerely,  
(Lady) BERTHA DAWKINS,  
QUEEN'S GIFT AUCTIONED

At 3.30 p.m., the auction at the various articles of interest was carried out on the lawn by Mr. Harold Watts, bidding being brisk. The Rector (Canon Long) introduced (and thanked) Mr. Watts.

The drawn thread lawn and lace cover, sent by H.M. the Queen, and accompanying letter were first put up to "shilling bids, all paid in," which realised £2 1s. 0d. Then, put up for actual auction, it was secured by Miss E.M. Greenside at £5, that lady promptly handed it back to Mr. Watts for re-auction, when, after spirited bidding, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield secured it for £5, thus the total realised by Her Majesty's gracious gift was £12 1s. 0d.

A play bill, (date 1840) of a London Opera, printed on silk, and book of words, German and English, surmounted by crown; book reputed to have been used by H.M. Queen Victoria at a performance of "Don Juan" by German Artistes was knocked down to Supt. Goddard for 12s.

A delightful picture of a garden scene, worked in silk by the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, was secured for 18s. by Mrs. F.E. Chapman.

Framed signed photographs of the Archbishop of Canterbury and of the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin sold well.

Mrs Corfield had invited other party leaders to send autographed photographs, but Mr. Baldwin alone had responded.

Other "lots" included a live Chinchilla kitten, a tray made and presented by Mr. Houlton, a Georgian fish slice, vases, etc.

Following the auction, infants of Palmer School were responsible for some very pretty and dainty dances, while girls of the R.M.S.O., Bear Wood (with Miss Webb at the piano) danced in costume with marked skill and grace. This brought the proceedings to the tea interval.

#### THE STALLHOLDERS

Mrs. Corfield acted as general hon. secretary for stalls, and stallholders, which were as follows: Household: The Hon. Mrs. Corfield and Mrs. Eustace; china and glass; Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. Rolt; utility: Mothers' Union; "Curiosity"; Mrs. Greenfield and Mrs. Palmer; provisions: Miss A.M. Jones and staff of Palmer School; vegetables and fruits: Mrs. T.B. Pither; samples: Miss Hussey; flowers: Miss Long and Mrs. Rodwell; "Beauty": Miss Corfield and Miss Mansfield; "Surprise": Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Whaley; art gallery: Mrs Palmer; "Superior Jumble": Mr. F.E. Chapman and C.E.M.S.; sweets: Mrs. R.H. Watts and Mrs. Park; ices, minerals and cigarettes: Mothers' Union; bran tub: Miss Feltham; teas and refreshments: Mrs. Long, Mrs. Pigott, Mrs. Breach and Mrs. Harwood; general secretary of stalls; The Hon Mrs. Corfield.

Mr F. Langley was in charge of bowling (men) for pig, given by Mr. Henry Bowyer, and (women) for pig or £1, the gift of Mr. Frank Bowyer. Coker-nut shies, hoop-la, etc., were further attractions.

The evening's programme was carried out in the meadow, and provided keen contests and much appreciated spectacles.

The elementary schools relay race was won by Palmer School with St. Paul's as runners-up.

The "spectacular" relay race by the Girl Guides aroused great interest.

For the "Pearson" Cup, the elementary schools' tug-of-war proved even more exciting than usual. Two teams, St. Paul's and Palmer (holders), competed. The teams were well matched and the tugs were strongly contested. St. Paul's were winners by 2-0. It is five years since St. Paul's last won this cup.

English folk dances performed by a company under Miss Evans, of "Aberfoyle," Wokingham were followed with great interest.

The Rev. K. St. C. Thomas, with megaphone, made an excellent announcer.

The Wokingham Town Band (under Mr. W.J. Tugwell, of Reading), enlivened the proceedings.

The Mayor (Alderman Priest), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, presented the prizes. Results are expected to be very satisfactory. During the day, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides rendered willing and useful service.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug

#### THE CINEMA NEW PROPRIETOR

The Wokingham Electric Theatre, Broad Street, has changed hands having been purchased by Mr. Andrews, proprietor of the Basingstoke Cinema. It is to be re-opened in the near future and talkies are to be presented.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### EMBROOK CRICKET CLUB

##### Celebration Dinner

In celebration of the winning of the Maker cricket cup this year, the Embrook Cricket Club held a dinner at the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, on Wednesday. The Mayor of Wokingham, Ald. A.E. Priest, presided and was supported by Councillors C. Wilson, F.S. Perkins, F.J. Barrett, W.C. Fullbrook and Mr. S. Collins (captain).

After the loyal toast the Mayor proposed "The Embrook Cricket Club." He congratulated the club on winning the Maker cup and said they must have had a good side to have beaten the teams they did. They played three matches in the competition. In the first match they beat Wokingham London Road by five wickets, in the semi-final they ousted Newbury by four wickets, and in the final defeated Colebrook's, Reading, by five runs.

#### ALD. MARTIN'S GARDEN

##### A Wokingham Beauty Spot

##### NOVEL FEATURES

##### Folk Dance Party in Lovely Setting

Under the auspices of the Wokingham centre of the English Folk Dance Society the annual summer party was held by the permission of Alderman W.T. Martin in his delightful garden at Wokingham. Miss B. Bishop is the local hon. secretary and Miss M. Grenside the manager of the branch. Visitors were present from Windsor, Maidenhead and Reading. A capital programme of folk dances was carried out by the Wokingham Committee, for which Miss E. Yalden supplied sufficient piano accompaniment. Miss Bishop thanked Alderman Martin for his kindness in allowing the use of his grounds.

#### A TRANSFORMATION

The kindly thought of Alderman Martin in allowing the use of his garden to the Wokingham Centre of the English Folk Dance Society provides fitting opportunity for a brief review of this beauty spot. Some few years back the site, lying between Reading Road and Milton Road, was mainly a piece of rough meadow land, with a belt of trees abutting on Milton Road. Acquired by Mr. Martin, the land was laid out by him on a most picturesque and striking plan (the design of his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin) as a beauty spot, and has been the admiration of the hundreds of visitors who, attracted by its fame, have come from far and near to see it.

At the side of his residence, "Fernleigh House," Reading Road, Mr. Martin had a garage built. This, of concrete, carries a flat roof, upon which has been established a "hanging garden," which, in addition to shrubs and flowering plants, actually carries a couple of growing beech trees. Rockery, fountain and lily pond, with some three dozen blooms, form a continuation of the garden, while a cascade and rocky vault, with quaint approaching paths between large boulders, provide an atmosphere of coolness on the sunniest day. A feature is the rock bridge spanning a deep gorge. A small pond, at one time containing goldfish, has been robbed of its inhabitants by the depredation of a kingfisher.

#### THE ITALIAN GARDEN

Next comes an Italian garden with shaped fish pond in which goldfish and other varieties besport themselves, the larger varieties being perfectly harmless as regards their brilliant companions. These fish are all so tame that at a signal (a stamp on the stone wall of the basin) they swim out in a body to be fed. Quaint statuettes, in recumbent pose, add to the air of peace. A balustrade of old-time red bricks provides a venerable appearance, and seats, also of brick, are built at intervals.

The English garden, which succeeds, is in spring a riot of colour from thousands of bulbs, and in summer the roses, etc., are a pure delight. Lining the main avenues and subsidiary walks are numbers of fine cupressus macrocarpa, alternated with laburnum. A large swimming pool, a sunk water and rock garden, and a belt of forest trees complete a very charming scene of natural decoration assisted by art.

Mr. Martin, to whom the formation and care of the garden is a pleasant and interesting hobby, very generously shares his pleasure with the public, who are invited to walk round it. A box is in evidence, the contents of which benefit the Wokingham War Memorial Clinic.

In addition to the beauties of the garden itself, the view from its mount of St. Paul's Church, etc., is very striking.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### DEATH OF MRS. E.J. GOTELEE

Probably the oldest inhabitant of Wokingham at the time of her decease, Mrs. Emily Jane Gotelee, passed away on Wednesday, aged 96, in fact within a few weeks only of her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been ill for several years and had exhibited remarkable patience in suffering. The eldest daughter of the late James Collingwood, of London, she was married in 1881, to William Joseph Gotelee, the well-known stationer, of Market Place, Wokingham, and who, notwithstanding his affliction of blindness, was a noted chess player. He died in 1915. Mrs. Gotelee was of very kindly disposition and courteous character albeit holding her own views very strongly. She was until illness prevented, a devoted worker of St. Paul's, Wokingham, a district visitor, and was the founder of the Mothers' Meeting, which still flourishes in that parish. In politics she was a staunch Conservative.

The funeral is fixed for today (Saturday) at St. Paul's, Wokingham, at 2.30 p.m.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

Re-elected--Hon. Constables: W.J. Pearce, A.H. Jones, H. Dyer and S.J. Callan.

Sergeant-at-Mace: Mr. Sparkes.

Town crier: H. Banks.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov

#### ADDITIONAL POSTAL FACILITIES

Commencing on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, a day mail delivery of letters and parcels, starting at 11 a.m., will be made at the houses in and adjacent to the Finchampstead Road as far as the Hand Post Corner Post Office. In conjunction with the delivery a collection of letters and parcels from the Hand Post Corner Post Office will be made at 12.30 p.m., and the letter boxes en route to the post office will also be cleared shortly after that hour. The collections will secure same day delivery in Reading and in Wokingham town and rural districts.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

#### AIR CRASH AT WOODLEY

##### Flying Officer Seriously Hurt

A well-known officer in the Royal Air Force, Pilot Officer Douglas Robert Stewart Bader, was severely injured when the machine which he was flying crashed at Reading Aerodrome, Woodley, on Monday. Bader, who was flying a service single-seater bull-dog fighter, had come from Kenley Aerodrome, Surrey. After the smash he was quickly extracted from his machine, and was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, with severe injuries. Later in the evening, his right leg had to be amputated. His condition at the time of going to Press was stated to be critical.

An eye-witness of the occurrence, Captain R.L. Bateman, who is chief instructor at the aerodrome, told a "Mercury" reporter: "I was in the club house when I heard the machine flying overhead. I looked out and saw that the pilot was about 200 feet above the ground. At the time his machine was going into a slow roll, and I was rather surprised at such a thing with the machine at that height. I do not think that the pilot realised he was so low. At any rate, as he came off his back he lost height and speed and 'pancaked' to the ground. The engine came away from the machine, whilst the machine itself rolled over for some distance. The pilot was extricated within a couple of minutes of his machine touching the ground.

Captain Bateman added: "We did not know the pilot at Woodley and we have no idea why he came here."

#### A KEEN SPORTSMAN

Pilot Officer Bader is a well-known sportsman. Although only 21 years of age he is considered one of the finest acrobatic flyers in the R.A.F. and he took a prominent part in the aerobatics event at Hendon Air Pageant last June. He is a fine rugby football player having played for the R.A.F. and the Harlequins, as well as the Surrey XV and the Combined Services XV. He figured at stand-off half-back for the last-named against the Springboks. He has also played cricket for the R.A.F. and has taken part in cross-country races and boxing competitions.

1932

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### HOSPITAL AID FILM

The Town Hall was filled to overflowing on Friday last week, when the film, "Never Again," was shown by Captain Flear, local organising secretary, Royal Berkshire Hospital contributor scheme. Mr. A. Prouten presided. The film introduced a love story and the scenes and incidents were "shot" locally. The idea was educational and illustrative of the benefits of the scheme. Mrs. B. Hurlle, the local hon. secretary to the scheme, made efficient arrangements, and Messrs. Perkins Bros. Lent

their fine radio-gramophone. Captain Flear and the chairman were thanked for their services.

A collection made to defray expenses, yielded a satisfactory sum.

#### THE TOWN BAND

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Band was held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P.), who is president of the band, being in the chair. The Mayor expressed pleasure at meeting the band again and seeing a good number present. He had noted that the various concerts, etc., arranged by the band were very sparsely attended by the general public. This showed the necessity for members of the band to be more energetic in the selling of tickets.

The hon. secretary read the statement of accounts for the past year which showed a decrease in income from all sources except the Whit-Monday fete, which revealed an increase of £5 1s. 0½d., the net decrease on the previous year being £9 4s. 9½d. the total income was £76 8s. 0½d., as compared with £85 12s. 10d. the previous year. In 1927, the year before Mr. Every took over the duties of hon. secretary, the income was £25 17s. 8½d., since then the figures have been--1928 (nine months only), £38 17s. 4d.; 1929, £85 19s. 3½d; 1930, £85 12s. 10d.; 1931, £76 8s. 0½d.

Mr. R. Millson was re-elected chairman and deputy bandmaster; Mr. F. Every did not seek re-election as hon. secretary, and Mr. P. Woods was appointed to that position. Mr. E. Culley and Mr. L. Wicks were chosen as hon. assistant secretaries. Mr. A. Harrison was re-elected treasurer, and Messrs. E. Cully, A. Harrison and L. Wicks were appointed trustees. The hon. secretary was thanked for the way he had kept the accounts and done his work under trying conditions. Mr. White proposed and Mr. Brown seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor for his attendance and support. This was carried with acclamation.

#### NEW RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S. INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION

In the presence of a very large congregation, fully representative, not only of St. Paul's parish, but including large numbers of members from All Saints' and other parishes, Bishop Shaw performed the impressive ceremony of the institution of the new rector, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, followed by that of induction, in which latter the Archdeacon of Berks. Officiated.

The dual ceremony concluded, the Bishop addressed the large congregation. He referred with thankfulness to the long and honoured connection with the church of their late rector, the Rev. H.M. Walter, who continued his duties till long past the age at which retirement would have been admissible such was his devotion to duty. The way in which the church had kept together and carried on, all working for the common good, was worthy of all praise, and the Bishop expressed thanks to the churchwardens and officers, the members, and to him who had officiated as priest-in-charge during the long time of waiting.

There was toleration and great freedom in the Church of England, yet behind it all those diversities was a common bond, by which all claimed union with the historic Holy Catholic Church, from which the Church of England had never separated, taking its views from no modern leader of school of thought, but from the historic faith. The bond of union was the Lord Jesus Christ.

The organist of the church, Mr. A.H. Lusty, A.R.C.O., A.T.C.L., played suitable voluntaries and the choir was present and, with the organ, led the singing of the hymns, "Thy hand, O God, has guided," "Come, Holy Ghost," and "As with gladness."

The robed clergy present were Canon G.F. Coleridge, Canon W.H. Whiting, Revs. A.P. Carr, W.T. Stubbs, C.H. Donne? Wyndham Lewis, H. Harrington Harris and J. Knight Law.

The churchwardens, Messrs. A.H. Newberry and A.E. Priest, preceded the clerical processions and, assisted by sidesmen, arranged the heating of the congregation.

After the service, the parochial church councillors and sidesmen, by invitation of the churchwardens, met the new rector in the Parish Room.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### DEATH OF ALD. E. C. HUGHES

Valuable Work For Wokingham

NOTABLE PUBLIC SERVICE

The news of the death of Alderman Edwin Cecil Hughes, "father" of the Wokingham Town Council and one of the leading business men of the town, was received on Sunday night with deep and widespread regret. Mr. Hughes had suffered for a long time from a severe and painful illness, but it was only during the last fortnight that his condition had become critical. He passed away at 8.45 p.m. on Sunday.

The late Mr. Hughes had resided in Wokingham for some fifty years. He had, by energy and skill, built up the large business carried on at Albion Works, Wiltshire Road. He was known and respected over a wide area, and the many important works carried out by him included churches, schools, public buildings and good class residences. Latterly he had purchased land in large quantity in Wokingham., and it is to his energy and foresight that much of the development of the town has been due.

#### Work for Extension.

Of keen foresight, as long ago as 1913 he propounded and introduced a scheme for the extension of the borough, which scheme, though apparently premature, was actually accomplished 14 years later.

Mr. Hughes' municipal career began in 1899, when, at his first bid, he headed the poll. Till 1911 he served continuously as councillor. In that year he was made alderman, which position he held till the time of his decease. He was for three successive years (1900, 1901 and 1902) Mayor. His insight and experience were of vast service to the council on the various committees on which he served, notably the Gas Committee.

#### Varied Activities.

He was chairman of the Rating Committee, chairman of the Old Age Pensions Urban Sub-committee, also chairman of the Charity Trustees of Wokingham, conducting the business most efficiently and expeditiously, and managing director of the Wokingham and District Water Company. Years ago he took great interest in the Albion Works Football Club and the Wokingham Athletic Club.

He was a leading Freemason; he was P.W.M. of the Downshire Lodge, also P.P.L. of the Downshire Chapter and Preceptor of the Wokingham Lodge of Instruction. He was at one time a member, and always a generous supporter, of the Wokingham Fire Brigade. His son, Major A.C. Hughes, was a member of the Wokingham (M.G.) "D" Coy., 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berks Regiment. (T.), and rose from private to second in command of the battalion. Alderman Hughes thus became closely associated with the Territorial movement, and proved a kind friend to the company, providing grounds for week-end camps, and prizes, under his own name, for shooting competitions.

He leaves a widow, one son, Major A.C. Hughes (T.D.), (assistant county surveyor for Hampshire), and two daughters

The late Alderman Hughes was a vice-president of the Reading and District Ironmongers', Assistants' Association, and at a meeting of the association on Tuesday, those present stood in silence as a tribute to his memory.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April

#### PRESENTATION TO SERGEANT-INSTRUCTOR TANNER

To mark the esteem in which he is held, upon his leaving the Territorial Company, Sergt.-Instructor T.T. Tanner has been presented by the Territorial Club with a Westminster chiming clock.

#### CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE

The annual effort for the National Children's Home and Orphanage was made recently in Wokingham. Mrs. W.P. Tucker, Langborough Road, was the organiser. The house-to-house collection realised £16 12s. 11d. and the Daily Day collection £7 18s. 1d., total £24 11s.

#### RARE VISITOR OR ESCAPED PET

A correspondent write:-On Saturday afternoon a local resident cycling in gipsy Lane, a secluded, deep-cut roadway, saw, near "Aberfoyle," a remarkable bird, apparently of the order of thrushes. Its body was of a bronze shade, and tail was bright yellow in colour. It spread its tail when perching, after the manner of a blackbird, which, in size, it also resembled. The question arises: Was this a rare visitor or an escaped pet?

#### "GIVE AND TAKE" SALE.

A "Give and Take" sale, organised by Miss Mary Corfield, was held at High Close, Wokingham, on March 31<sup>st</sup>. People were asked to bring something costing one shilling, and to buy something for the same price. Those who helped to sell were Miss Sybil Mansfield, Miss Nora de Vitre, the Misses Finch, Miss Anne Locke, the Misses Hardy, Mr. Mark Mansfield was at the door, and the tea was arranged by Miss Cooper and Mrs. Barry. The proceeds amounted to £15 5s. 8d., which Miss Mary Corfield paid over to the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays, for which society she is hon. secretary for the Deanery of Sonning.

#### DEATH OF OLD RESIDENT

There passed away on Tuesday, at his residence, 22, Oxford Road, Wokingham, Mr. W. Breach, an old resident, aged 85. Mr. Breach was the first bandmaster of the Wokingham Town Band, formed from the choirmen of St. Paul's, Wokingham, in the early 'seventies'. Some forty years ago, Breach's String Band, of which Mr. Breach was founder and conductor, was a musical combination whose concerts were greatly appreciated. Mr. Breach was one of the earliest members of the Wokingham Volunteer Corps. He leaves a family of three sons and three daughters, who are all well-known and respected in the district, as was their father.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> May

#### CONVENT SCHOOL CONCERT

An excellently rendered programme was given by pupils of the Convent School, Easthampstead Road, in the Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon, in aid of funds of La Touraine, the home for delicate children attached to the convent. The singing of the pupils was remarkably good, as heard in "The Music Makers," "Shining Stars," a three-part song, "les Petit bébés," the last named a very attractive item by small



children in costume. "Queen Margaret and the Outlaws," as a dramatised recitation, received excellent treatment, Master Raki Robieson, a New Zealander, being especially good as the King. The French play, "Madame Choufleurette," given in French by English pupils, who proved apt both in the language and deportment, caused much amusement, Betty Raeside, as hostess, gave a capital presentation, while while Maria Stevens, Anna Mitchell and others, as guests, cleverly sustained their parts. Mr. Readcliffe remarked upon the excellent tone that pervaded the school

#### MR. F. WHITE IN MOTOR ACCIDENT.

Mr. Frank White, the well-known cattle dealer and slaughterer, of Seaford Road, Wokingham, met with a singular motor accident in the small hours of Wednesday morning. He was driving his motor lorry with a load of meat en route for London, and when near the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Virginia Water, a lorry and trailer, the property of Messrs. Fairclough, carrying a load of some nine-and-a-half tons of meat collided with him from the rear. The force of the impact was such that both lorries were overturned and the contents scattered over the road. The trailer swung round and knocked the body clean off Mr. White's chassis, literally smashing it into matchwood, and the rear off-wheel of the latter became detached and rolled almost to the front door of the hotel. Much of the lorries' contents was rendered unfit for sale, being covered with oil and grease and splinters of wood. Mr. White sustained cuts and bruises and suffered from shock. It was at first feared he had broken his collar bone, but examination proved this was not so. The driver's mate of the large lorry was injured and taken to Englefield Green Hospital. Messrs. Richardson and Starr, of London Road, Wokingham, were telephoned for, and with their breakdown equipment salvaged the remnants of Mr. White's lorry, which they brought to Wokingham.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May

#### EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

A large combined Empire Day celebration was held at the cricket ground, Wellington Road, on Monday evening at six o'clock, under the auspices of the Wokingham branch of the British Legion (Capt. D. Ward). Others taking part were the Boy Scouts (District Commissioner Colonel H.I.E. Palmer, Scoutmaster D. Goodson and the Rev. A.P. Carr), Girl Guides (District Commissioner Miss S. Denis de Vitre), also Cubs and Brownies and Legion children (Miss Gore Booth). Among those present to witness the parade were Admiral J.B. Eustace, Mrs. Eustace, Mrs. And the Misses West, Mrs. H. Bowyer, etc.

The Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) inspected the parade and afterwards took the salute, following which a hollow square was formed, when, in a happy address the Mayor expressed his pleasure at being incited to their Empire Day celebration. To buy British was very fine, but he would further urge them to think British, to speak British and to act British. (Hear, hear). When they remembered the heritage they enjoyed, they would be likely to do so. More was being done for boys and girls now than ever before and he hoped gatherings like this would indeed help them to remember that they were British subjects. He wished them good health and prosperity throughout their lives. (Applause).

Three cheers were then given for the Empire and for the Mayor.

The Town and British Legion Band, conducted by Mr. R. Millson, played a selection of pieces.

A very well contested programme of children's sports followed, after which the Mayoress, Mrs. A.E. Priest, distributed the prizes.

#### GIRLS' RACES.

75 yards flat race (ages 7-9).-1, D. Heath; 2, V. Seymour.  
75 yards flat race (ages 9-11).-1, D. Wells; 2, J. Turner.  
100 yards flat race (ages 11-14).-1, C. Potter; 2, J. Berry.  
100 yards flat race (over 14).-1, G. Carter; 2, P. Anderson.  
High jump (ages 11-13).-1, J. Yardley; 2, J. Berry.  
High jump (over 13).-1, G. Carter; 2, P. Anderson.  
Team of six in 80 yards relay race. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wokingham Company.

#### BOYS' RACES.

75 yards (7-9).-1, C. Sandroff; 2, E. Calvin.  
75 yards (9-11).-1, H. Reed; 2, G. Brant.  
100 yards (11-14).-1, G. Smith; 2, G. Andrews.  
100 yards (over 14).-1, C. Hell; 2, H. Chaney.  
80 yards relay (six each team).-1, British Legion team; 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wokingham Cubs.  
High jump (13-15).-1, C. Smith; 2, G. Andrews.  
High jump (11-13).1, G. Hall; 2,-. Hagley.  
Band race.-Bandsman Dance.  
The officials were:-Starters, Captain Ward and Mr. G. Hope; judges, General Molloy and Captain H.I.E. Palmer; hon. secretary, Mr. A. Andrews.

#### SCHOOLS' EMPIRE CELEBRATION.

The usual Empire Day ceremony at the Palmer School was witnessed by a large number of friends of the school, including Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mrs Greenfield and Councillor F.J. Barrett (managers), Miss Greenfield, Mrs. F. Piggott, Miss Swainson, Mrs. And Miss Grenside, Admiral J.B. Eustace, Miss Robinson, Miss V. Robinson, Fraulein L. Ratts, Miss Long, Miss Pearman, etc.

After prayers said by Canon Long, patriotic songs, including "Jerusalem," Kipling's "Children's Song," and "Empire Hymn," (Dr. J.S. Bridges), were sung by the children, Miss Goodship being at the piano. Hoisting the flag, followed by march past and salute, formed a fitting close to the very interesting proceedings.

Lieut.-General P. Molloy, R.M., gave an excellent address. Mr. F.E. Chapman then announced his awards as to the Empire essays, for which he generously gives a cup each to the top boy and girl, and the teachers give ten medals. Mr. Chapman gave the number on the essay, and Mr. Maidment (head master) announced the name of the essayist, (his name not being known to Mr. Chapman. The awards were:-Cups: Girl, Dorothy Hatchings; boy, W. Worner. Medals: Elsie Coombs, A. Shorter, J. Jones, Aileen Longhurst, Joan Exton, Pauline Laily, Kathleen Saunders, J. Harris, May Reader, L. Lane. Mrs. Chapman presented the medals.

#### St. Paul's School

The Senior School of St. Paul's assembled on Tuesday, and among other interesting functions was a flower service, such as formerly was held in the church on Whit Sunday. The Rector, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, was present, also Mr. E.E. Summers (manager) and Miss M.I. Ellison, as well as Mr. R. Bagley (head master), who gave an address, and the teaching staff.

Mr. Bagley said they were sending flowers to hospitals in London. Speaking of kindly interest for others, Mr. Bagley referred to a letter he had received from a former pupil, now a wireless operator on board a ship, away in China or elsewhere.

The Rev. T.W. Sergeant then presented 24 C.c. certificates and a large number of special grants to Standard VII scholars for perfect attendance and merit.

Miss Ellison then received gifts of flowers, which were very numerous and beautiful. They will be packed and sent to London hospitals.

The children sang "Jerusalem," "Here, Lord, we offer Thee" and "Vesper," Miss Dennison being at the school organ.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July

**WOKINGHAM WOMAN AVIATOR**  
**Miss Spooner Competing in Big Air Race**

Miss Winifred Spooner, the well-known airwoman, who lives at Wokingham, is one of the two women pilots who have entered for the King's Cup Air Race, which is being flown in two stages, commencing yesterday (Friday) and finishing today. The machine Miss Spooner is flying is a De Havilland Moth (G-AAYL) and her handicap is 2 hrs. 36 mins. 36 secs.

Brooklands is the starting and finishing point on both days. Yesterday the route was:- Brooklands, Abington, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Bristol, Birmingham, Hooton (Liverpool), Woodford, Leicester, Ipswich, Northampton, Brooklands. Today's route is:- Brooklands, Bristol Northampton, Brooklands, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Bristol, Brooklands.

Yesterday the route passed south-west of Reading on the portion Abington-Shoreham, while the outward and homeward flights to and from Bristol flights to and from Bristol in today's route pass in the vicinity of Wokingham.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July

**LARGE BOMBER LANDS**

A large bomber of the "K" class, after circling in the district for some time, made a successful landing in Mr. Colebrook's field about 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday. A large number of people crowded into the field and London Road adjacent, and were greatly interested in the machine. The crew numbered five, and, we understand, heavy clouds at low altitude rendered further flying unsafe, hence the descent. Towards evening conditions had changed for the better, and the crew awaited weather reports before re-starting.

A fine ascent was made at nine o'clock, and the machine left in the direction of Salisbury.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July

**WOKINGHAM TOWN F.C.**  
**Good Prospects For Next Season.**

The annual meeting of the Wokingham Town Football Club was held on Monday, when some 60 members and players attended. The committee room of the Town Hall was not spacious enough and the meeting was transferred to the large hall.

Mr. W.H. Lee read the balance sheet, which showed a balance of approximately £11, with the new pavilion fund at £158, and also a substantial amount in the motor mower fund. The sale of programmes (Mr. J.L. Langley, secretary) was a record one, and Mr. Langley was congratulated on selling well over 2,000 during the season.

The secretary (Mr. H. Hawkins) reported that the club was not so successful last season from the playing point of view, but if that meeting and the number of players wanting to sign on were any guide, then they were in for a very good season.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Dr. H.F. Smith was elected president, and, in reply, regretted that it was necessary to elect a new president through the death of Mr. E.C. Hughes, who had not only been a great friend of the club but of Wokingham as a whole. Continuing, Dr. Smith

considered that Wokingham should have a much better team than at present, and urged all the players present to play the game, to do their best for the club, and to raise the standard of play in Wokingham. This season a Wednesday section had been arranged and would run two teams.

Mr. A.H. Jones was elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and other appointments were: Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Mr. R. Hawkins; vice-captain ditto, Mr. J. Cooper; captain, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Mr. H. Hawkins; vice-captain ditto, Mr. E. Brooker; hon. secretary and treasurer Wednesday section, Mr. R. Riseley; captain Wednesday 1st XL, Mr. P. Tanner.

Mr. Huckings read the balance sheet of the Peach Street Social Club, which showed a credit of approximately £4 10s., after considerable expenses which would not occur next season. Mr. Huckings and Mr. Boshier were re-elected joint. Hon. secretaries of this club.

Sat 17 Sep

### WOKINGHAM CHARITY CARNIVAL

Town's Revels For Local Institutions.

A FULL DAY OF FUN.

Big Procession a Climax to a Lively Effort.

Wokingham threw off its usual air of solemnity and demureness on Wednesday when it held its third charity carnival. The inhabitants and residents from the surrounding district entered into the spirit of the occasion. The carnival was easily the most successful ever run in the town, and the Mayor (Ald. A.E. Priest), who took part in everything that was going on, described it as being a "truly wonderful day."

There were the usual entertaining events, but the big feature was the procession, which easily surpassed anything which had been done before. In fact it was such that it would have done credit to any town.

Various new features were introduced this year and proved highly successful.

### CROWNING OF THE CARNIVAL QUEEN

The town seems to have remained more or less immune from the disease of the???? For the entries did not come up to expectations by a long way. Some of the young competitors apparently lost their [illegible] which confronted by the crowd, while others made their Yo-Yo's behave, the competitor held hers in her mouth, and no surprise would have been occasioned had someone else dangled theirs from their feet. Mr. F.A. Lyon, the secretary of the Royal Berks Hospital, judged the contest, while the Mayor watched the competitors closely. Afterwards Mr. Lyon and the Mayor were to be seen in the Market Place experimenting with a couple of Yo-Yo's.

Apparently the majority of the inhabitants considered the horticultural show was not in keeping with the spirit of the carnival, for the entries were disappointingly small. The features of this were a beautiful floral display by Messrs. Sale and Son, Ltd. and the tremendous size of some of the apples entered for competition. Mr. Goddard of Bear Wood, had the duty of judging the entries.

### CARNIVAL QUEEN CROWNED

The crowning of the Carnival queen, Miss May Staniforth, took place in the Market Place in the early afternoon, the ceremony being performed by the Mayoress. The queen was accompanied by her lady-in-waiting and trainbearers and was greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress. Dressed in white, she made a charming figure, and it seems that no better choice could have been made. After bouquets had been handed out, the queen departed for her flower-bedecked lorry, and the Mayor received his Royal Highness, the Rajah of Muckabout, his wives and some of his forty thieves. After some incoherent babblings these visitors also left, three worthies from Embrook

arrived to demand the freedom of that distinguished river-side resort. The arguments of one Monty Brooks, who was apparently worried by his womenfolk, Emma and Cissie Brooks, were not particularly lucid, but he announced that Embrook's inhabitants would no longer be subservient to anyone. Their arrival of a somewhat human mare, designated the Mayor-elect of Embrook, apparently influenced the Mayor of Wokingham, for he granted them their charter of freedom. The mare (or Mayor-elect) seemed overjoyed at the result of the negotiations, and the formation of Embrook's corporation will be looked for with lively anticipation.

The Carnival queen and the Mayor and Mayoress then left for the carnival field, where a comic football match was staged. The football was of the "all-in" type, and, in fact, one of the forwards was heard to complain that he had been bitten in several places by an opposing back. Hockey sticks and umbrellas came in useful, but no one seemed to be greatly concerned about the ball. The contestants wore weird garbs, parts of which they shed as they raced around the field, sometimes chasing the ball and sometimes the unfortunate referee. The referee soon met with an untimely end and was removed in an improvised coffin. The final result seemed to be in doubt, and although no prizes were given, the players received sundry hard knocks and bruises.

The first release of racing pigeons ever held in the district took place from the carnival field, and when 227 birds were liberated they presented a fine spectacle. Thrills and amusement were provided by the Wokingham Motor Club.

#### COMIC CRICKET

The programme on the Wokingham cricket ground commenced with a cricket match between the girls and lads of Wokingham. The game was the outcome of a long-standing account which the ladies of the Wokingham Tennis Club had to settle with members of the cricket club, and in view of the nature of the struggle carnival day was chosen for the fixture.

The ladies opened the game, and with the first ball one of the batswomen sent an easy catch for a fielder to fumble. Play continued with weapons ranging from frying pans to besoms, one enterprising Jewish gentleman scoring easy runs by catching the ball in a net fixed in a hole in a bat. Umpires there were, but the position was purely honorary, all disputes being settled in good old English style. When there were any balls hit in the long field the spectators were forced to return them, for, after all, a ball is not really essential for a robust game of cricket. After a hard (literally) tussle the girls scored a magnificent victory by half a dozen runs over the lads, who made 43.

Greyhound racing was the next attraction, but the unlooked for climax came when the "hare"—two rabbit-skins on a length of cord—which had been slowed down to cause the dogs to stop, was captured by one of the angry pursuers and hauled away—tow-line as well—to the shelter of the Punch and Judy show. Other racing was brought to an untimely end by the public straying over the course.

First in popularity was the display of the Wokingham Volunteer Fire Brigade. A car enveloped in smoke made its rumbling way around the arena until its occupant, finding the heat a little unpleasant, attempted in vain to douse the fire with soda water. No more successful were the efforts of a village ancient with perambulator, trelliswork ladder and cow-bell, who assisted in the good work of breaking up the vehicle. At last stalwarts of the Wokingham brigade arrived, and in one glorious deluge settled all differences. Some of the spectators thought the display a "wash-out," however.

#### THE PROCESSION

The carnival procession in the evening was thought to be the most successful ever held, large crowds thronged the route. Fellow [fold in the page] and members of the

St. John Ambulance Brigade, who were in a lorry [fold in the page] Mr. R.J. Ward, came the Mayor [fold in the page] in a decorated car. The Carnival Queen, with her retinue followed, while the Orthopaedic Clinic staged a tableau representing the work of the clinic. The winner of the class for the decorated motor-cycle combination had transformed his machine into a realistic representation of an old-world cottage, complete with garden. A tableau entitled "Wokingham Welfare babies" created much amusement, and the children were certainly a healthy-looking lot. A truly rural touch was provided by a tableau called "Hurst—Past and Present." The huntsman, the parson, a "sot" sitting on a pair of stocks, a hale and hearty squire and other characters in village life were all represented. The members of the Town Council found themselves "duplicated" by a number of citizens in robes of office, and preceded by a pompous-looking mace bearer.

#### NEW 'BUS COMPANY.

Music of a sort was provided by a scavenger's band, and they were followed by a number of people wearing gigantic heads. An ancient-looking vehicle, bearing the inscription "The Sloazel Bust Coy., caused more amusement, and so popular did they prove that shares in the concern are reported to have soared. A gruesome scene was depicted in "Prof. Killeme and Coy.'s Hospital," which also advertised the efficaciousness of Wokingham's 100 per cent, pills. Although the pills might have been worth a guinea a box, no one seemed to have the courage to try them.

Whether Embrook likes it or not, Wokingham seems to have taken that village under its maternal wing, and another tableau proclaimed this fact. A placard announced "M. Brook. Wokingham's adopted." What will Embrook have to say about this? A temperance tableau was provided by the local members of the Independent Order of the True Templars.

An unusual item was "Ye Olde Michaelmas Fayre." A lorry had been converted into a pen, in which were a number of very live geese, watched by a farmer's boy. A very modern touch was given by a car converted into a tank, complete with armed bandits and a machine gun.

School children provided a number of charming tableaux, including patriotic, Japanese and rural scenes. They also appeared in a number of striking costumes. "Miss England IV" was a "motor boat" on wheels, and containing a very juvenile "speed king."

The following fire brigades also took part: Wokingham, Windlesham, Hartley Wintney, Bracknell, Wargrave, Pangbourne, Egham, and Frimley and Camberley. One of the Royal Berkshire Hospital ambulances also participated. The bands taking part were the Wokingham Town and British Legion Band., St. Sebastian's Band, and the band of the R.M.S.O.

#### THE EVENING PROCEEDINGS

During the evening the Mayor distributed the prizes and awards from the platform in the Market Place, and afterwards Mr. Harold Watts auctioned a model bungalow adaptable for a children's doll's house, made and given by Messrs. C. Lunn and Sons, of Wokingham. The bungalow fetched £5.10s. at the first sale, and it was put up five times afterwards, the final price being £1. The total proceeds from the sale were £12 17s. 6d.

There was afterwards community singing in the Market Place conducted by Mr. A. Lemoine (bandmaster, 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers), and led by Mr. B. Dicker.

There was a fancy dress ball at the Drill Hall, a dance in the Town Hall, a whist drive at the Legion Hall, and a concert at the Church House. The Mayor and hon.

organising secretary, (Mr. D. Goddard) made a tour of these functions, and found each one crowded.

### THE SECRETARIAL DUTIES

The duties of hon. secretary have this year been carried out by Mr. Goddard, and it is to his efforts that the success of the carnival can be in no small measure attributed. He was ably supported by an enthusiastic committee and a large body of helpers. Carnival House proved very successful, and the room for this and a car for the secretary were loaned by Mr. W.E. Hall.

### THE RESULTS PROCESSION WINNERS (long list)

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sep.

### WOKINGHAM POST OFFICE

Opened by the Mayor

The completion of the newly-built Post Office, Wokingham, and its opening to the public was formally celebrated at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

A considerable number of the leading residents assembled on the pavement outside the fine new building in Broad Street. These included the Mayor (Alderman A.E. Priest) and Mayoress, Miss Robinson, Mr. W.C. Lucas (head postmaster) Mr. F. Stokes, his second, Alderman R.S. Whaley, Councillors G.C. Wilson and Major T.W.



(Reading Mercury)

Greenstreet, Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk), Mr. C. W. Marks (surveyor), Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Supt. Goddard, Mrs. Whaley, Miss N. Butler, Miss L. Butler, Mr. C. Sparkes (sergeant-at-mace), Mr. W. Thatcher etc.

Mr. Lucas, on behalf of the Post Office apologised for the unavoidable absence of Mr. Grierson (surveyor) and Mr. Dyke (chief architect). Mr. Lucas mentioned that the back portion of the premises (comprising the sorting offices and telephone exchange etc.) was built by the late Alderman Hughes, whose memory they all revered, and the front building, the public office, by Mr. W.A. James, of Maidenhead. The work, with certain delays, had occupied about three years during which time the Post Office business had to be carried on without interruption, and there had never been a hitch of any kind. It was hard for outsiders to realise all the difficulties which had to be overcome—such as trenches across the road when the mails were arriving and

leaving. The Post Office felt greatly indebted to the contractors and foremen for willing co-operation. The building was a credit to their skill and labour. It was in the late Georgian style of multi-coloured bricks with Portland stone facings. It had been the aim that the architectural view should agree as much as possible with the principal buildings in that wide street. It had cost £20,000. The woodwork inside consisted of the choicest English oak and the counters of Empire mahogany. The carpentry work had been done by a Wokingham man throughout, and they were very proud of it. The counter screens and the whole of the accessory fittings were in the very latest style.

The Mayor then drew stamps from the outside slot machines, and posted two letters in the new posting box.

Mr. Lucas then handed the Mayor the key of the large front door, receiving which his Worship said he felt it a very great pleasure and pride to have been asked to open that very handsome new Post Office. He and his colleagues of the Town Council very much appreciated the very great privilege that had been given them. Wokingham felt entitled to good things, and in that very handsome new Post Office they had something they could well be proud of. With the demolition of the old Post Office they were to see the retirement of their old postmaster, Mr. Lucas, which they all regretted. They offered him their hearty good wishes. His successor would receive a cordial welcome and they trusted he would prove a true friend as Mr. Lucas had done.

His Worship then unlocked and opened the door, and business began.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### ELECTRIC THEATRE

The public of Wokingham and district are fortunate in having such an up-to-date cinema as the electric Theatre as a centre of entertainment. The theatre opened a year ago with the presentation of sound pictures and it has proved so popular that the management have felt justified in making many improvements. The theatre has just been redecorated and refurnished for the comfort of the public at a considerable expense, and it is intended to continue with the policy of showing only the best pictures. Next week by special request, "The Desert Song," and "Good Night Vienna" will be seen. Full particulars are advertised.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### PAINTED FABRICS AT WOKINGHAM

Mrs. Howard Palmer has consented to declare open the exhibition of painted fabrics, the work of severely disabled ex-service men, which is being held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Thursday and Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor of Wokingham will preside at the ceremony. Reference will be found elsewhere in this issue to the exhibition which was at Ascot this week.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

#### THE LECTURE SOCIETY

Colonel F.G. Barker presided at the Town Hall on Wednesday, when an American soldier, author and explorer, Colonel C. Wellington Furlong, gave an illustrated lecture, entitled "Adventuring in Patagonia." A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir H. Watson.

#### YOUNG MAN TO ADDRESS "IMPS."

A meeting and entertainment under the auspices of the Junior Imperial League, Wokingham branch, will be held on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. J.A. Boyd-Carpenter



(son of sir A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P.), who took his degree in 1930, will be the chief speaker.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

A meeting, arranged by Mrs. Harwood, local hon. sec. was held on Tuesday in the Methodist Schoolroom, under the auspices of the Wesley Guild. Mr. Newport presided. The chairman gave a cordial welcome to Lieut.-Colonel G.M.M. Crichton, the regional secretary for the Union, who gave an interesting address, dealing with several aspects of the work of the League of Nations. The Rev. F. Wesley Clifford thanked Colonel Crichton for his address, and Mr. T.M. Welch thanked the chairman. A quartette, "Lest we forget," was capitally sung by the Misses E. and K. Wilson, Mr. T.M. Welch and Mr. E.H. Perkins.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION AT THE CINEMA

The Wokingham Electric Theatre was full on Thursday, at the showing of the League of Nations Union film, "Lest We Forget," the gathering having been arranged by Mrs. Harwood, hon. secretary, local branch of the League of Nations Union. The League film was preceded by two others, one a news film "The eyes and ears of the world," the other "Songs of Old Donegal." The Rev. Canon B. Long, Rural Dean, presided, and the speaker was the Rev. F. Wesley Clifford, of Reading. The chairman announced apologies from the Mayor and Mayoress. Lieut.-Colonel G.M.M. Crichton thanked Captain Wingfield, and Mr. Hayward, the manager, for his kindness in granting the use of the cinema.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1932

#### BRITISH LEGION

The sum realised at the British Legion (women's section) sale of work on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, was £46 6s. 8d.

#### THE ESKIMO AND THE FROZEN NORTH

In connection with the S.P.G. two meetings were held in the Church House on Monday. In the afternoon the Rural Dean presided and an address was given by the Ven. A.L. Fleming, Archdeacon of the Arctic, who for twenty-three years has worked in the Arctic regions among the Eskimos. In the evening the address, entitled "Across Arctic Canada," was illustrated with slides.

#### HUT FOR UNEMPLOYED

The Unemployed Association of Wokingham occupied on Monday the hut lent them by the Town Council in Wellington Road. The hut will be open daily from 2 p.m. till 8.30 p.m., and will be closed at least two days in the week to allow of the men spending some time during the week at their homes. A resolution affiliating the Wokingham Unemployed Association to the Trades Council (formed by delegates from each of the Trade unions) was passed. Councillor E.A. Scott presided.

#### THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

Edgar Allan Poe's weird story, "Murders in the Rue Morgue," will be screened on the first three days of the week. It tells of a crazy doctor's fiendish experiments. Sidney Fox, Leon Waycoff and Bela Lugosi, who played Dracula and Frankenstein, are in the cast. The supporting picture will be "Sunset Trail," a popular story of Western Adventure, starring Ken Maynard and "Tarzan,"

“Murder on the Second Floor,” will be the feature picture on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A British production, Florence Desmond appears as Lucy, the housemaid, with John Longden, Pat Paterson and Amy Veness. Joe E. Brown figures as the hero in a comedy of college sports, “Local Boy Makes Good.”

#### SUPERINTENDENT BUTLER

Superintendent Butler, who took over the Wokingham Division of the Berks Constabulary on December 1<sup>st</sup>, served for six years at Ascot as an inspector, and two years in his present rank. Since he joined the Force in 1906 he has always done his work well and has succeeded in gaining the confidence of the public. The late Chief Constable (Colonel A.F. Poulton) had a great respect for his abilities. When he went to Ascot his capabilities were soon felt, and he handled many difficult and serious cases of crime in an efficient manner. In connection with Ascot Races he has been responsible for the lodging and feeding of about two hundred men, and the management of traffic, and he has proved himself a capable organiser. In these duties he was ably assisted by Inspector Braby, who has taken up duties at Ascot.

1933

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

#### THE LATE MISS SPOONER Former Resident of Wokingham A FAMOUS PILOT

Frequent Visitor to the Reading Aero Club.

Residents in the locality learnt with regret of the death of Miss Winifred Spooner, which occurred at Ratcliffe Aerodrome, Leicester, at the early age of 32. Miss Spooner's death was the more surprising as she had only been ill two days, and had never been ill before.

No alarm was occasioned until the day she died, when a specialist was sent for from Nottingham. Her symptoms were those of influenza, but heart trouble supervened, and she died two hours after the arrival of the specialist.

Miss Spooner, who was famous for her flying exploits, was born at Woolwich, where her father, the late Major W.B. Spooner, was a veterinary surgeon to the 14<sup>th</sup> Hussars. Her brother, Capt. F.V. Spooner, who was with her before she died, used to reside at Wokingham, and for some time Miss Spooner also made her home there. She was a frequent visitor to the Reading Aero Club, where she was one of the most popular members, and it is interesting to note that Mr. C.O. Powis purchased one of her machines when the aerodrome was started.

Among Miss Spooner's exploits, one of her most notable was when attempting to fly from Croydon to Cape Town with Flying Officer E.C.T. Edwards in 1930. It will be recalled that their machine fell into the sea off Southern Italy, and Miss Spooner swam ashore to obtain assistance for her companion. It was after this that she was given a civic welcome by the Mayor and Corporation of Wokingham, and remarkable tributes were paid to her courage and ability.

#### A WORLD CHAMPION

Miss Spooner was acknowledged to be one of the greatest women pilots, and she participated in races, competitions and ordinary cross-country flying. She took part in all the King's Cup races from 1928 to last year, and on one occasion she only failed to win by the narrowest of margins. It was in 1927 that she learned to fly, and in 1930

she was acclaimed the world champion woman aviator, being awarded the women's trophy of the International League of Aviators. One of the few women pilots to hold a commercial pilot's licence, she was the only woman in this country at the time of her death who was earning a living as a personal pilot to an owner of private aeroplanes. For nearly two years she had been air chauffeur to Mr. Lindsay Everard, M.P. for the Melton Division of Leicestershire, prior to which she managed her own air-taxi service at Stag's Lane Aerodrome.

Miss Spooner was one of the last people to speak to the late Sir Sefton Brancker before he left this country in the ill-fated, R101, having flown him from Ipswich to Cardington for him to join the vessel. After the airship had crashed, incorrect rumours were circulated that Miss Spooner had been a passenger in it.

The funeral took place at Hinton Parva, near Swindon, on Tuesday, a memorial service being held the following day at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London

#### EMBROOK CLUB OPENED

The opening ceremony of the new Social Club at Embrook was performed by the Mayor. There was a crowded audience. Mr. E.B. Skinner is the first president of the club, Councillor F.J. Barrett chairman of the committee, and Mr. P.F. Butler secretary. Many well-known public men were present and apologies for absence were read from many others. The Mayor referred to the inception and carrying through of the scheme, which included the adaptation of the old Mission Room into suitable club premises by voluntary workers. Councillor Barrett expressed satisfaction at the large attendance, and thanked especially the rector and churchwardens of St. Paul's for handing over the Mission Room on a 21 year's lease of 25s a year. A concert was sustained by Mrs. J.W. Strange. Miss D. Fidler, Mr. D. Goddard, Mr. "Curly" Thatcher (songs), Mr. A. Andrews, jun. (xylophone solos). Miss Webb and Mr. Andrews jun., acted as accompanists. A retiring collection realised £1 16s. for the repair fund.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April

#### THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

At the beginning of next week John Barrymore is appearing with Helen Twelvetrees and William Boyd in "Cardigan's Last Case". There will be no performance on Friday, but for Thursday and Saturday Boris Karloff and Charles Laughton appear in a thriller entitled "The Old Dark House". The management are offering a reward to any lady who will see the picture alone at midnight.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July

#### DEATH OF MISS L. CLAY

The funeral of Miss Louisa Clay who passed away on Friday last week took place at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Monday. The Rev. T.W. Sergeant officiated. Owing to deceased weighing some 38 stone, it was necessary to rig a derrick over the grave in order that the coffin could be lowered. Messrs Heelas and Sons, Wokingham, represented by Mr. D.H. Dowty, were the undertakers.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that Mr. Arthur Heelas had presented to the council to keep with their records, a book—"The History of the Crutwell Family." The family had many associations with Wokingham dating back over two centuries. Mr. Heelas had

also given them a copy of "The Windsor Forest Turnpike." It was decided to send the donor an official letter of thanks.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### CANON LONG'S FAREWELL

Following upon a farewell letter in the Parish Magazine for September, Canon B. Long on Sunday preached both morning and evening and took leave of the congregation of All Saints', to whom he had faithfully ministered for the past 29 years. He referred to their long and happy association, thanked the parishioners for their loyal co-operation and expressed his best wishes for the future of the church. On Thursday next Canon Long's institution and induction to the benefice of Whitchurch is to take place, and he and Mrs. Long have said they would be pleased to see at Whitchurch Rectory those friends from Wokingham who might be able to come over. The Rev. Mr. Goldthorpe, of "Grendahr," London Road, Wokingham, has undertaken for three months the pastoral charge of the parish.

#### DEATH OF MR. A. G. DANCE

Much sympathy is felt for the widow and other relatives of Mr. Arthur George Dance, whose death occurred on Tuesday evening at his residence, Winnersh, after a long and painful illness, which involved the amputation of both legs. He was 32, the younger son of the late Mr. William Dance and Mrs. Dance, of 13, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. After leaving school he was continuously in the employ of Mr. George Haye and Son, solicitors, Shute End, and had attained the responsible position of chief clerk. He was greatly esteemed by his firm and was generally respected. A well-known sportsman, he was a member of the Wokingham Club, where he was a billiard player of repute and on one occasion was the winner of the Howard Palmer Cup. He was a keen member of Bear Wood and Hurst Bowling Club and had also played for the Howard Palmer Club, Wokingham. He was winner last year of the Bear Wood Club's handicap. Mr. Dance was, during his illness, elected vice-captain of Bear Wood Bowling Club for the current season. He was one of the trustees of the Wokingham Town Football in respect of their ground at the time of its purchase, a position he occupied till his death. The funeral is to take place at All Saints', Wokingham, today, (Saturday), at 11 o'clock.

#### DAY OF CARNIVAL AT WOKINGHAM

Town's Fourth Annual Event for Charities

#### CROWNING OF THE QUEEN

Over Sixty Decorated Vehicles in the Procession

Travellers passing through Wokingham on Wednesday might have thought that they had arrived in a strange country, for men and women in ordinary garb were conspicuous mainly through their absence. In fact, practically all the citizens of Wokingham thought the occasion one on which to turn out in fancy dress, there being quite as many in "glad rags" as in ordinary clothes.

The carnival spirit was abroad everywhere, and even the rain of the previous day and of the morning could not damp the ardour of those participating. As if in sympathy with the objects of the carnival, King Sol did his best by driving off the rain soon after midday, and providing a bright afternoon and evening for the citizens and visitors alike to enjoy themselves.

This was the fourth carnival that Wokingham had had, and, from the point of view of jollity, was quite as successful as the others.

Of course, the rain had an effect on the collections made for various charitable objects, but so brisk was the work done by the collectors when the sun did shine, that the financial result will doubtless prove a satisfactory one.

#### MAYORS OF NEIGHBOURING TOWNS PRESENT

Householders throughout the borough vied with one another in effectively decorating their premises, and some very pretty designs were to be seen. The dazzling brilliance of many of these was added in the evening by many coloured lights. The Town Hall was one of the most pleasingly decorated buildings, the artistic use of lights making it indeed attractive in the evening. Flags, festoons and garlands were to be found everywhere. One house was decorated as the Wokingham Zoo, and looked very effective with the animals and fish. The Southern Railway Station was another attractively decorated building, and the stationmaster (Mr. J.A. Gloldeen?) and his staff must have worked hard to obtain such effect. The results of the decorated shops and houses competitions will be found below.

The Rag Collectors seemed determined to exceed themselves this year. They were out at an early hour despite the rain, holding up motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to ransom, which, in most cases, was willingly forfeited. As has already been stated, there were fancy costumes everywhere. Some of the collectors went back to Victorian days for their dresses, others appeared to have come from every country in the world, whilst others must have looked very far ahead, for they were extremely futuristic attire. The band of the Gordon Boys' Home and the Dagenham Girl Pipers paraded the streets throughout the day.



Dagenham Girl Pipers

#### MEANS OF COLLECTING MONEY

Various means of extorting the nimble copper were resorted to, among them being Signoretta Collectum's barrel organ and jazz and nigger bands, whilst one company of collectors carried a tarpaulin around with them, so that those who watched from the upper rooms should not escape paying tribute. "Bonzo," a fine Great Dane belonging to Mrs. R.M. Mainprize, was one of the most enthusiastic collectors of all.

There was no more strenuous worker for the carnival than the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman A.E. Priest), who set a fine example to the rest of the citizens by his numerous acts on behalf of the carnival funds. His first official act was to release a gas-filled balloon from the Market Place. From that moment until late in the evening balloons were being sent up in connection with a competition organised by Mr.

Norman Lawrence, a prize of a guinea being offered for the label returned from the furthest spot.

### WELCOME TO MAYORS

A feature of the carnival this year was the visit of a number of chief magistrates from the various boroughs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The visitors included the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Councillor and Mrs. A W Tudor), the Mayor of Abingdon (Councillor A.E. Tombs), the Mayor and Mayoress of Wallingford (Alderman and Mrs. L. Shepperd), the Mayor and Mayoress of Henley (Councillor and Mrs. W. Lee), and the Constable of Hungerford (Dr. T.G Starkey-Smith). Apologies for inability to attend were received from the Mayors of Maidenhead, Newbury and Windsor.

The visitors were welcomed by the Mayor of Wokingham, who occupied a decorated platform erected in the Market Place. Supporting him were Alderman W.T. Martin, Alderman P. Sale, Alderman E.S. Whaley, Councillor F.J. Barrett, Councillor C Goddard etc.

Alderman Priest, in expressing a welcome to the visitors, said there were two objects to the carnival, one being that they should have a very happy day, and the other being that they should do their best to lend a helping hand to various institutions. He hoped that every minute the visitors spent in the town would be enjoyed, and that they would carry away happy memories of Wokingham's 1933 Carnival.

The Mayor of Reading, in responding, said Wokingham had a great aim in supporting the efforts of the Mayor and of the secretary and treasurer of the carnival. Reading was particularly interested in the carnival because a part of the proceeds would doubtless find its way to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Reading and Wokingham were good neighbours, and they were all proud of their towns. On behalf of Reading he wished Wokingham every success in their carnival.

Good wishes were also expressed by the Mayors of Abingdon, Henley-on-Thames and Wallingford, and the Constable of Hungerford.

This part of the proceedings closed with three cheers being given for the civic visitors.

### CROWNING THE QUEEN FARM CART TURNED INTO COACH

There followed the ceremony of crowning the Carnival Queen. This year's choice fell on Miss Edith Bowyer, the daughter of Mr. Henry Bowyer, of Ashridge Wood Farm. Miss Bowyer arrived on the scene in the official motor-car, and looked resplendent in her robe of ermine-trimmed scarlet. She mounted the platform and knelt in front of the Mayor, who placed a jewelled crown on her head. The Queen was attended by a page dressed in Victorian costume, and three child attendants, who wore long white dresses, and caps, and carried Victorian posies. After the crowning ceremony, the Queen was presented with a bouquet of red carnations, whilst the Mayoress received a bouquet of pink carnations.

The ceremony over, the Queen left for the carnival field. She rode in one of her father's farm carts, which had been turned into a regal coach with garlands and flowers, and with a throne of white and gold. She was followed by the Mayor of Wokingham and the various civic visitors. "Her Majesty" toured the fair ground, and, with the Mayor of Wokingham, occupied a horse for the first ride on the roundabouts. A number of the other mayors accompanied her on this ride.

## FOOTBALLER INJURED

This was the signal for the fun in the carnival field to commence. The proceedings started with a six-a-side football tournament, which was organised by the Wokingham Town Football Club, with Mr. Harold Lee as the secretary of the tournament. The Mayor of Wokingham kicked-off for the first match. Four teams entered, the results of the first round being Sandhurst, 5 goals; Wokingham Wednesday, nil. Wokingham Rovers, 6 goals; Wokingham Territorials, nil. In the final, Sandhurst were victorious over Wokingham Rovers by 4 goals and a corner to nil.

The tournament was marred by a serious injury to Scott, one of the Sandhurst players, who collided with one of the Wokingham Wednesday players and received an internal injury. A doctor was summoned, and Scott was later taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where he was detained. On Thursday the hospital reported that Scott had had a fairly good night, and his condition was slightly better. Frederick Fry, of Wokingham, was also injured and attended the hospital, but was able to go home after treatment.

The "arena" was next occupied by Roman gladiators and chariots. The latter were three in number, and were drawn respectively by a van horse, a cart horse, and a donkey who sported a straw hat and who was encouraged along by a bunch of carrots, tied to a stick. The carrots were a sufficient inducement to enable the donkey to win every chariot race. Afterwards the victor gave rides to children at a penny a time. A fight between the gladiators followed, when there were some realistic "kockouts" with swords, pikes, and a mallet.

## FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY

Following the football matches Wokingham's Volunteer Fire Brigade were seen in action. Their display included drill to show the latest type of foam extinguisher in use, the value of breathing apparatus, rescue work, first aid, and the use of the first-aid tank. There was also a grand turn-out by the two motor pumps. The serious work over, some members of the brigade indulged in a burlesque under the title of "Twisted Hose." This allowed the discovery of a house on fire by the housewife, who at first attempted to extinguish it with a toy watering can. She then summoned the fire brigade, which consisted of an aged and bearded fireman with a handcart. The rustic fire-fighter's efforts added to the conflagration rather than hinder it. The crowd was kept in fits of laughter by this episode.

## SPORTS AND PIPERS

### CARNIVAL QUEEN PRESENTS PRIZES

The spirit of carnival was rife in the cricket ground throughout the afternoon. The droll costumes of some of the officials and many of the spectators, and the sparkling plaids of the Dagenham Girl Pipers, who gave a display, contrived to make the scene one of the most brilliant of the day. Most of the time was taken by the children's sports, which had been arranged by a sub-committee of local school masters.

During an interval the Girl Pipers gave a programme of pipe music and dancing. This included popular Scotch marches, the "Keel Row," "Sword Dance" and "Highland Fling." The clever way in the girls kept in perfect time in the dances, although not close to or facing one another, won the admiration of the spectators quite as much as the stirring way in which they played. It is interesting to note that the Pipers started among young working girls in Dagenham, and they have proved such a success that there are now more demands for their services than they can fulfil. Recently they toured Belgium, and were congratulated by a member of the Belgian royal family. They have also appeared in the Lord Mayor's Show, and at Olympia.

A release of a large number of racing pigeons from all parts of the county was made on the ground by Mr. C.W. Luckock, local organiser of the Berks County Flying Club. The Wokingham members of the club have also given the proceeds from the Rugby race on July 29<sup>th</sup> to the carnival funds.

At the end of the sports the Carnival Queen presented the sports prizes.

#### A CAR FOR £5

Following the prize distribution, a large number of articles were auctioned by Mr. Harold Watts and Mr. Garnet Hall, who gave their services free of cost. The lots included a five-seater saloon car, which was sold for £5, and a five-valve wireless set, which realised £2 5s.

The open-air proceedings concluded with community singing, which was led by Mr. Bert Dicker, of the Cheerio Concert Party, and accompanied by the Wokingham Town and British Legion Band. A whist drive was held in the Town Hall, and dances took place at the Drill Hall and the British Legion Hall. The Drill Hall dance was organised by "D" (Machine Gun) Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berkshire Regiment. Mr. Jack Webb was responsible for the dance in the British legion Hall, assisted by the entertainment committee, with Mr. A. Andrews as chairman, and Mr. A. Andrews, jun., as hon. secretary. Fred Hare's Harmony Five supplied the music. The proceeds of the dance held at the Legion Hall on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and organised by Mr. A. Andrews jun., were also handed over for the Carnival funds.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> October

#### NEW BURIAL GROUND AT WOKINGHAM

On Thursday afternoon the Bishop of Oxford consecrated an addition to the burial ground at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, in the presence of a large congregation. The addition was one which was badly needed, at it is hoped that it will render a town cemetery unnecessary for a further twenty years.

The new burial ground was purchased (one acre in extent) when the land of Mr. Crutchley came into the market some years ago. It may be recalled that the churchyard was first extended in 1912, when the then added portion was consecrated by the late Bishop Gore.

Clergy present included the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Canon J.A. Anderson (Rural Dean), Canon G.F. Coleridge, Canon B. Long, Canon W.H. Whiting, the Revs. A. P. Carr, W.H. Bayley, W.T. Stubbs, R.D. Weller, L.R. Majendie, F.L. Sugget, T.W. Sergeant, C.H. Donne, W.H. Wright, C. Mansfield, K. St. C. Thomas (Bishop's Chaplain)

(plus many others)

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### WOMEN LEGIONARIES

The annual General meeting of the women's section of the British Legion took place in the Legion Hall, Wokingham. Lady Victoria Villiers (president) gave a short address on the care that was taken of all the cemeteries in France, which she had lately visited. The Hon. Mrs. Cornfield, vice-president, spoke on the character of Lord Nelson in connection with the anniversary of Trafalgar Day, and Mrs. Eustace, vice-president, spoke on Armistice Day and Poppy Day.

#### A WOODEN "POLICEMAN"

Since Thursday last week a wooden, truncated cone, bearing the words "Keep Left," has replaced the policeman on traffic control duty at the junction of Market Street and Broad Street. The device was met with much criticism. It certainly slows down traffic,



east and west, but there is still very obviously the lack of intelligent direction as to cross track turning, and for vehicles requiring a wide sweep. It is understood that the innovation is in the nature of an experiment.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### EMBROOK TENNIS CLUB

The Embrook Tennis Club held a dinner and dance at the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, on Monday, when Mr. N.C. Lawrence presided. He distributed the cups which had been won during the past season as follows: Ladies' singles, Mrs. Lawrence; men's singles, Mr. F. Carpenter; mixed doubles, Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Carpenter.

#### ARMISTICE DANCE

Arranged by Councillor C. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Thatcher and others, a successful Armistice dance was held in the drill hall on Monday in the aid of the funds of the Police Court Mission, the Nurse Fund, and other charities. Music was supplied by the dance band of the R.M.C., Sandhurst. The bar was managed by Mr. J.B. Crawley, of the Bush Hotel, while Mrs. Crawley was equally successful with the refreshments.

#### THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

Dorothy Jordan and Marjorie Rambeau appear at the beginning of the week in "Strictly Personal," the supporting film being "Pick Up," with Sylvia Sydney and George Raft. John Stuart and Mary Glynne are in "The Lost Chord," at the end of the week. On the same days a travel film, "Wanderlust," will be shown. It depicts a journey beyond Victoria Falls, and shows many wild animals in their natural surroundings.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

The Wokingham branch of the League of Nations Union (Mrs. S.M. Harwood, hon. secretary) held a successful meeting on Wednesday evening. The Mayor (Councillor C. Mansfield) presided, and, in an introductory speech, said peace was difficult to attain, but peace was what all wanted and was the ideal to pursue. The League of Nations was the constituted body to work towards that ideal. That the League existed was in itself a triumph, and he earnestly appealed for it. (Applause). Dr. J.J. Paterson, M.O.H., then gave an interesting account of his visit to Poland under the auspices of the Health Section of the League of Nations to inspect and assist that nation in health, legislation and work.

#### WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

An effort is being made to establish in Wokingham, a branch of the Workers' Educational Association. A meeting was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Marcus Lower, the organiser for Berks, Bucks and Oxon, attended and gave an address on the work and aims of the association. It was decided to begin with a series of six lectures on the "History of Industry in England during the last 100 years." Mr. C.W. Bishop, B.A., of Reading, has been chosen as the lecturer, and an introductory address will be given by him in the Bank Room, Wokingham Town Hall, on Monday next, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. S.J. Miles will be chairman for the introductory meeting. The lectures will be followed by discussions and will be non-political. Everyone interested is invited to attend and enrol for the course. If the course is successful arrangements will be made

for lectures and debates throughout the winter, and it is hoped to organise social events during the season.

#### DEATH OF MR. GEORGE HAYE.

The death of Mr. George Haye, the well-known and respected solicitor, of Wokingham, which occurred suddenly at his residence, 3, Park Avenue, about 2 p.m. on Monday, came as a shock to the residents, and much sympathy is extended to Mrs. Haye and family. Mr. Haye, who was 66, was the son of Mr. James Haye, of Fowey, Cornwall, and was admitted as a solicitor, in June, 1890. The same year he commenced to practice in Wokingham with the late Mr. J.F. Sergeant, succeeding his great-uncle, Mr. W.W. Wheeler. He was clerk to the Wokingham Old Age Pensions Committee, while from about 1893 until 1920 he was assistant clerk to the Wokingham Guardians. As a member of St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, he was deeply interested in its welfare, and was four years rector's Churchwarden with the late Rev. H.M. Walter. He had been a member of the church council, of which he acted a lay vice-chairman. His loss to the church will be sincerely felt by all. He leaves a widow with two sons and one daughter. Mr. Ronald Haye (son) is the surviving partner in the firm of Haye and Son.

The funeral service was held at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham, on Thursday, the rector officiating.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### MR. PRIEST'S FOUR YEARS' MAYORALITY

##### Gift from Wokingham Sportsmen

At the Wokingham Club on Friday evening last week a large gathering assembled to make a presentation to the late Mayor of Wokingham, Alderman A.E. Priest.

Dr. H.F. Curl, who presided, said the idea originated with Councillor G.C. Wilson, the energetic hon. secretary of the Wokingham Cricket Club. People hardly realised what Councillor Wilson had done and was doing for the town of Wokingham in the interests of sport. They were making this presentation to the best sporting Mayor Wokingham had ever had. The subscription list was open to all, the minimum subscription being 1s. Sportsmen of the town had nobly come forward, and the donations included those from the unemployed, who had added their little homage as they could. Speaking as a councillor, he had served for four years under Alderman Priest. The period could be divided into four parts. For three years as peaceful working during which he earned appreciation and respect for the way in which he carried out his duties, impartially and with tact. He only carried on the fourth year at their request; that year had been a stormy one. By his conduct in the chair during that year he added to the appreciation and respect of the aldermen and councillors. He had tackled difficult problems with determination and grit. He was a little fellow, but a great Mayor.

##### The Ex-Mayor's Versatility

Councillor G.C. Wilson said they all knew of the great debt of gratitude they owed to Alderman Priest. He was always ready to help in the cause of sport—he would play in a cricket match, kick off at football. Bully off at hockey, play bowls, and could even throw a good dart. (Laughter). If a boxing tournament was held in the town, he believed he would start proceedings by hitting both men on the jaw! As cricketers they all knew he had been batting on a very bad wicket during the last 12 months against bad bowling.

Mr. G.H. Dowty (chairman of the Wokingham Club) said that Alderman Priest had always been willing to assist the club; he had taken a great interest in bowls, and had presented the ladies' challenge cup.

Mr. T.W. Park (Wokingham Bowling Club) associated himself with the remarks of the previous speakers.

#### Tribute from the Unemployed

Mr. W. Watts, representing the unemployed, thanked the Mayor for his support to the Wokingham Rovers Football Club, better known perhaps as the Unemployed Football Club. Without his assistance and support they would not have been able to carry on. During his four years of office he had looked after the unemployed, for which he (the speaker) extended their grateful thanks.

Mr. W.H. Lee (Wokingham Town Football Club) and Mr. J.L. Langley (third eleven, Wokingham Cricket Club) added their tributes.

Dr. Curl then asked the late Mayor to accept a solid silver cricket bat, mounted on a massive plinth, on which was a silver plate inscribed: "Presented to Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P., by the sportsmen of his native town as a token of appreciation of a sportsman's innings as Mayor of Wokingham, 1929-33."

Alderman A.E. Priest said he really felt that instead of receiving such kindness, he ought to be presenting a testimonial to the townspeople. Everybody had shown him unbounded kindness, and he wondered what he had done to deserve such recognition. He should treasure their gift as long as he lived. He had many friends in Wokingham four years ago. Today he had a much larger circle of friends. They could not have chosen a better gift. From a boy he had been associated with sport of the town; he was secretary of St. Paul's boys' cricket Club, and until a few years ago was connected with the cricket club. He had played on many occasions as centre forward for Wokingham Town F.C. He was pleased to be connected with the social life of the town. He was deeply touched that the members of the unemployed had contributed. He would continue to do all he could on their behalf.

#### Rough Time During the Last Year

References had been made to the rough time of his last year of office, and to his boxing abilities; there had been times when he would have clearly loved to exercise that art. It had been a great experience for one's patience. He hoped that no Mayor would ever be called upon to do what he had to do.

Musical honours were accorded to Mr. Priest, and cheers for the late Mayoress.

Mr. Moore thanked Dr. Curl for the able way in which he had presided.

## 1934

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.

#### STRAY PIGS

At the Wokingham Borough Bench on Tuesday, Frank White of Model Farm, Wokingham, was fined 5s. for allowing two pigs to stray on the highway.

#### MIDNIGHT RINGING

The Old Year was "toll'd out" and the New Year "rung in" on the bells of All Saints', the ringing band included three local ladies, the Misses J. Blackman, A. Baker and G. Baker.

FOR N.S.P.C.C.

Arranged by Miss Joyce Fry, hon. secretary of the Wokingham (Junior) Branch, N.S.P.C.C., a capital New Year's Day dance was held (by permission of Miss R.C. Smith, principal) in the hall of Grosvenor School. A sum of £3 6s. 6d. was realised.

#### FOR THE WAIFS AND STRAYS

The "red bag" collection in connection with the Christmas tree in All saints' church, realised the very satisfactory sum of £9 3s.; the amount has been forwarded to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

#### CAROL SERVICES

On Sunday evening, carol services were held in the churches in the town—at All Saints' (Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O., organist), St. Paul's (Mr. F.A. Burgess), and at the Baptist Church, Milton Road (Mr. F.C. Griffin, A.R.C.O.). In each case the singing of the carols was a delight to the large congregation. The Methodist congregation (Rose Street), by invitation, attended the Baptist service.

#### UNEMPLOYED ENTERTAINED

On Thursday last week fifty unemployed men and women were invited to a Christmas dinner at the Sturges Road Citadel. The function was made possible by a donation from General Higgins, head of the Salvation Army, and the arrangements were made by the local Corps under Captain Boyd. The Mayor (the Rev. C. Mansfield) attended and in the course of his good wishes expressed the hope for better things in the New Year. An entertainment was provided by Captain Boyd and Lieut. Estill, a sketch by Bro. And Sister Arnold, a Nativity play by the children, a cornet solo by Bro. Bird and selections by the songsters.

Reading Mercury Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### FIREMAN INJURED ON DUTY

Wokingham Fire Brigade were called on January 4<sup>th</sup> to the assistance of Mr. Rushbrooke "Woodbury," Farley Hill where they found a chimney on fire. Danger from a wooden beam was anticipated but after three hours of work all was rendered safe. Cranking up the motor engine prior to the return journey, Fireman H. Hawkins sustained a broken wrist, through a back-kick of the lever.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### POULTRY PRODUCERS

A meeting of over 100 poultry producers in the district was held at the Wokingham Town Hall; Mr. J.F. Wood, who convened the meeting, took the chair. He explained that the scheme for the proper marketing of eggs under the Agricultural Marketing Act might be expected shortly, and that now was the time for poultry producers to co-operate and organise their business so that mutual advantage to both producer and consumer might follow. Mr. V.S. Ellis, from the Ministry of Agriculture, gave a lucid statement of difficulties that might be expected to arise, and the means to overcome them. He explained matters of detail. Mr. Maer spoke of the benefits arising from purchases in connection with the S.P.B.A. food purchase scheme. The meeting decided to apply to become a district branch of the S.P.B.A. A temporary committee of nine was nominated, and asked to formulate rules and regulations to govern a district packing station which it was decided to set up. These rules and regulations will be discussed at a further meeting to be held in the Wokingham Town Hall, on

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, particulars of which are advertised under the heading of "Poultry."

### WOKINGHAM TO ENDOW A HOSPITAL BED

All Classes Co-operate in Raising the Money

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS

Civic Ceremony and Dedication to be Arranged

Wokingham is justly proud of the fact that it has raised a sufficient sum to endow a bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It is to be known as the "Wokingham Hospital Committee Bed." All classes have loyally co-operated to secure this handsome and gratifying result.

It has been agreed to arrange a ceremony in Wokingham at which the endowment will be accepted by the Hospital authorities in the presence of the civic representatives and donors to the fund. There will also be a dedication ceremony at the bedside in the ward at the hospital in the presence of members of the Wokingham Hospital Committee. Canon Long is to be asked to perform the dedication ceremony.

A presentation has been made to Alderman A.E. Priest, and Mrs. Priest by the Wokingham Hospital Committee in recognition of their splendid services to the committee, especially during Mr. Priest's four years' Mayoralty.

### BOROUGH COAT OF ARMS OVER THE BED

The meeting of the Wokingham Hospital Committee was held in the Committee Room of the Wokingham Town Hall on Tuesday evening, and was largely attended

Expressing pleasure at having their president (Alderman Priest) with them, Counc. W.C. Fullbrook, the chairman said: "We intend to tell him what we think of him." (Laughter). He remarked that to have secured the hospital bed would have been, but for the wonderful help of Alderman Priest, impossible for at least several years. They could not let his work pass without presenting him with something "to keep and remember us by in the future." (Applause). He would ask their oldest member, Mr. G.R. Frift, to make the presentation, but would first allow time for any remarks from members.

Mr. W.H. Lee expressed deep appreciation of the wonderful work their president had done for the committee in the last four years. He had stood by them, working men, and by his loyalty, leadership and comradeship, had gained, he might say, their love. The older-members felt more than they could express. To the younger ones Alderman Priest had set an example and had given a lead as how to go through life, and fight for the right end. Other members who spoke with similar strain were Mr. G. Gough (hon. secretary), who thanked Alderman Priest for his help on many occasions, and Mr. F. Mole, (vice-chairman).

### GIFTS FOR ALDERMAN AND MRS. PRIEST

The chairman then produced a handsome silver-mounted walking-stick, inscribed "Presented to Alderman A. E. Priest, Mayor of Wokingham, 1929-1933, by the Wokingham Hospital Committee." The gift was accompanied by an autographed book of names. Mr. Frift made the presentation.

Alderman Priest was obviously much moved by the tribute, and said he found it difficult to speak. They had sprung a surprise on him. The pleasure of being associated with them in the work for the hospital was one of the greatest which had come to him during his four years of Mayoralty. No president could have had greater loyalty shown him than he had received from members of that committee, and it had now been crowned by this great act of more than friendship. They had kept the secret well. He should treasure their beautiful gift all his life, and, still more, the words of

their chairman and others that evening. "I hope it will be my great privilege to count every one of you my friends as long as I live," he added. (Applause).

#### SERVICES OF MRS. PRIEST.

The chairman paid a graceful tribute to Mrs. Priest, who had so loyally helped Alderman Priest, and asked him to convey their gift to her (a handsome silver cake tray), wishing her long life and happiness. (Applause).

Mr. A.H. Jones (hon. treasurer) remarked that but for the magnificent work of Alderman Priest the completion of the bed scheme would have been much longer delayed. (Hear, hear and applause). The good people of Wokingham and the carnival Committee were deserving of thanks, but the foundation was laid years ago by the Wokingham Hospital Committee. He had been asked to hand the gift to Alderman Priest and ask him to present it to Mrs. Priest on their behalf. (Loud applause).

Alderman Priest expressed thanks on Mrs. Priest's behalf, and he and his wife would treasure the gifts all their lives. The autograph album they would look upon as one of the greatest treasures in their home.

The chairman then handed certain prizes to Mr. J. Langley and to little Miss Gough.

#### ACCEPTING THE ENDOWMENT.

At 8.15 p.m. Alderman Priest (president) succeeded Councillor Fullbrook in the chair, and a meeting was held to consider the special agenda, viz., suggestions from the Royal Berkshire Hospital authorities as to the Wokingham bed endowment. The hospital authorities stated:--

It is the desire of the Board of Management that as many as possible of those who have contributed to the endowment should be present at the inauguration of the Wokingham bed.

Accommodation within the ward is naturally restricted, and the following suggestions are put forward as alternative methods of giving effect to the Board's wishes.

1. To defer the inauguration of the bed until the early summer, when a large number of guests could be gathered together in the grounds outside the ward and the dedication ceremony relayed to them by amplifiers.
2. To arrange a ceremony in, say, the Town Hall in Wokingham at which the endowment would be accepted by the highest hospital authorities in the presence of the civic dignitaries and all donors to the fund who wish to be present; and to hold the dedication ceremony at the bedside in the ward of the hospital in the presence only of the members of the Wokingham Hospital Committee.

There were present, in addition to the officers and members of the committee, the following: The Mayor (Councillor, the Rev. C. Mansfield), Alderman Admiral J.B. Eustace, Dr. Ward, councillors Barrett, Fullbrook and D. Goddard, and later Mr. F.A. Lyon, secretary of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

"THERE IS OUR BED."

Alderman Priest his presence in the chair as being due to the fact that he did not vacate until the annual meeting in March, of the Hospital Committee. The chairman said they had every reason to feel happy and proud that the object they had set out to achieve—viz., to get a bed endowed in the name of Wokingham in the Royal Berkshire Hospital—had been realised. Inaugurated a few years ago, they had been able to do a great deal in the last four years, and, thanks to the loyal co-operation of the Wokingham Hospital Committee and the generous support of their good friends in

Wokingham, they would soon be able to say, "There is our own bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital." He hoped that beds would be provided from other districts in the county, because it would help a worthy institution that was doing such a tremendous lot of good. They had before them two suggested alternatives for the commemoration of the event. The Wokingham arms would, he said, be placed over the bed, and the usual ceremony of dedication would take place.

#### CIVIC CEREMONY FOR WOKINGHAM.

Mr. F. Moles then proposed that the second alternative suggested by the hospital authorities be adopted, advancing that as many Wokingham people had contributed [illegible].

After some discussion both suggestions were accepted. It was agreed that the proposed tablet to be fixed over the hospital bed would be of oxidised bronze, with lettering in white enamel. It would show the Wokingham Borough arms and state "Wokingham Bed."

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### HONOUR FOR ALD. A.E. PRIEST

At their meeting held on Tuesday the board of management of the Royal Berkshire Hospital unanimously appointed as honorary life governor of the hospital Alderman A.E. Priest, J.P., in recognition of his work as president of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, who have completed the endowment of a bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The letter to Mr. Priest in which the announcement is made speaks highly of his leadership and enthusiasm. Naturally Mr. Priest is immensely gratified that such an honour should be conferred on him, and which he considers his colleagues on the Wokingham Hospital Committee are entitled to no small share.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### WOKINGHAM'S ENDOWMENT FOR ROYAL BERKS HOSPITAL.

#### LORD LIEUTENANT RECEIVES TOWN'S GIFT AT A PUBLIC CEREMONY CHEQUE FOR ONE THOUSAND POUNDS

First Borough Arms to be Placed Over a Bed; A Fine Example to Others.

The coping stone of successful endeavour was placed upon the magnificent scheme of Wokingham's Bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital at a large and enthusiastic gathering in the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, when, on his first official visit to Wokingham, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr. J. Herbert Benyon, president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, accepted, in the name of its Governors, the tablet and endowment of the Wokingham Hospital Committee bed from Alderman A.E. Priest, President of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, through the Mayor of Wokingham, Councillor the Rev. Charles Mansfield.

The presence of Mr. Benyon was highly appreciated by the people of Wokingham, who felt that there was no one who more fittingly could have accepted the tangible expression of their zealous exertions. High tributes to Mr. Benyon's great public services were made during the proceedings.

#### FUND OPENED AT TOWN HALL FIVE YEARS AGO

The Mayor wore his robes of office and the mace lay before him on the table. The Councillors, fully robed, were also on the platform, also Mr. F.A. Lyon, secretary of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The other members of the Council present were Alderman W.T. Martin, J.B. Eustae, E.S. Whaley, M. Blake, P. Sale and A.E. Priest, Councillors H.F. Curl, Miss D. Wescott, S.L. Bowyer, F.J. Barrett, D. Goddard, G.A. Cheeseman, C.R.P. Henderson,

D.E. Ward, E. Ward, C. Goddard and W.C. Fullbrook, with Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton (Town Clerk).

In the hall were the following officers of the Wokingham Hospital Committee: Messrs. F. Moles (vice-chairman), G. Gough (hon. secretary), F. Carpenter (hon. assistant secretary), G. Ballard, (ex-chairman), G.R. Frift, S. Gater, T. Douglas, G. Clements, O. Jefferies (the oldest members), and the members of the committee, also members of the ladies' committee: The Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Thorpe, Miss Benson, Miss Curl, Mrs. H. Stewart, Miss West, Mrs. G. Haye, Mrs. Henlé and Miss Fletcher; Mr. C.W. Marks (borough surveyor), Mr. C. Sparkes (sergeant-at-mace), Mr. R. Hosler and Mr. W. White.

Messrs G.R. Frift, G. Hand, M. Norris and H. Powell (of the Wokingham Hospital Committee) acted as stewards.

#### THE MAYOR'S WELCOME

The Mayor said he had the honour to welcome Mr. Benyon to Wokingham, and that in a dual capacity, first as Lord Lieutenant of the County of Berkshire—the representative of H.M. the King (applause)—and secondly as the highest administrator of the Royal Berkshire Hospital under his Majesty, who is its president. He felt it a great honour that Mr. Benyon had come personally to accept at their hands the fruits of the labours of the Wokingham Hospital Committee. Mr. Benyon had been president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital for 24 years. (Applause). Not only that but his family had always from the very beginning, about 75 years ago, interested themselves in the work of the hospital.

He called on Alderman Priest to give them an account of the work of the Hospital Committee.

Alderman Priest said they had seen that Sunday described as “an important day” in Wokingham. They who had followed the work of the Hospital Committee in Wokingham knew just what that meant. Their meeting that day successfully proved it an important one, and further proved that volunteer effort for good was still going strong, and in few places stronger than in Wokingham. (Hear, hear, and applause). He had been entrusted with a very great privilege and honour, for it was his very great pleasure, on behalf of the citizens of Wokingham, to ask their Lord Lieutenant, who was also president of the Royal Berkshire Hospital to receive from them the endowment of their Wokingham bed. They were glad to have him there to accept their tribute of thanksgiving. It was with a peculiar sense of thankfulness they were met that day, knowing that their efforts had been successful. Many interesting events had taken place in their Town Hall, but never one similar to the present. Everyone present would like to know that other districts would try to emulate Wokingham's example. (Applause). What Wokingham had accomplished, others could, and no more worthy purpose could be served than doing all in their power to assist in helping sickness and suffering. It might, perhaps, be said of other districts that they had their own hospitals to attend to, but he would remind those who said that they in Wokingham had their own War Memorial Clinic, and all knew how very successfully that had been carried on. (Applause).

#### EFFICIENT HOSPITAL COMMITTEE NECESSARY.

So other places could accomplish what Wokingham had done. The centre of such work was a good and efficient Hospital Committee such as they had in Wokingham. He had the privilege of being associated with them for the past four years, as president, to work with them and to see the work they were doing. He knew how devoted they were to that work, year in, year out, and in all weathers. Some of them had grown old in that service, but age had not interfered with their efficiency, and



they had kept going right up to the present time. In addition, they had not allowed any special efforts to interfere, in any way, with their ordinary activities on behalf of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He expressed the grateful thanks of the committee to “all our citizens who have come along so generously to help us in our efforts, from the widow’s mite and the child’s farthing to the more substantial cheques and notes.” (Hear, hear and applause).

The fund was started when, some five years ago, one evening at a meeting of the Town Council, a letter was read from the local Hospital Committee asking permission to put outside the Town Hall a box for the collection of tin foil and farthings. That formed the foundation of what had grown to be the endowed bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital—surely a tedious and arduous task, but a labour of love. As time went on the committee realised it would take a long time to accomplish what they had set themselves to do. So other efforts followed, until last year the balance of the £1,000 was secured. His list contained 637 names, with contributions ranging from a farthing upwards. There were very few people in Wokingham who had not in one or another way contributed. Those who did not, he would venture to say, were a little bit sorry for themselves that afternoon.

To the Wokingham Carnival Committee they owed a deep debt of gratitude; also to Mr. Lyons the Royal Berkshire Hospital secretary, with his unfailing kindness and help upon all possible occasions. (Applause). His help and encouragement had been a wonderful inspiration all through.

#### THE PRESENTATION.

Mr. Priest then handed the tablet to the Mayor, and asked Mr. Benyon’s acceptance of the endowment of the Wokingham bed. He added: “We know Wokingham will remember this day for many years to come, and we hope and trust that the success of our efforts may result in bringing relief to many a sufferer, and that those who use our bed may, by God’s blessing, be restored to health and strength again.”

The Mayor then handed the tablet to Mr. Benyon.

The tablet consists of solid oak, 24 ins. By 15 ins., bearing in white lettering, with the arms of Wokingham to the left of the inscription, “Wokingham Hospital Committee Bed, 1933.”

Speech from Mr. Benyon during which Mr. Priest was made an honorary life governor of the hospital.

(more speeches.)

Arrangements announced that Canon Long would dedicate the bed on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

#### MISS ROSEMARY VILLIERS



Daughter of Lieut.-Col. C.H. Villiers and Lady Victoria Villiers, of Folly Court, Wokingham. Her engagement to Mr. Archibald Adam Gordon Black, son of Mr. Adam Black, was recently announced.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March

#### BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCERT

A capital concert, arranged by Miss D.E. Jerman, L.R.A.M. , was given on behalf of the funds of the Baptist Sunday School summer treat.

#### THE ELECTRIC THEATRE

“Friday the Thirteenth,” the outstanding British picture, with dialogue by Emyln Williams, will be shown on the first three days of next week. The film reveals the private lives of a number of people involved in a ‘bus crash. Jessie Matthews, Sonnie Hale, Gordon Harker, and Edmund Gwenn, are well cast. “Gold Diggers of 1933” will be the attraction at the end of the week. The players include Joan Blondell and Ginger Rogers, and a large chorus.

#### MEMENTO

As a memento of a most successful effort, Alderman Priest, president for the last four years of the Wokingham Hospital Committee, has presented every member with a folded card, autographed, “With the best wishes of the president, A.E. Priest, 4<sup>th</sup> March,” and containing a fine photographic reproduction of the tablet which has been placed above the bed in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. A dozen cars were lent to convey the visitors to Sunday’s ceremony, which is reported elsewhere.

#### NO WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL

A meeting of the executive committee of the Wokingham Carnival was recently held to discuss the question of holding a carnival this year. After prolonged thought and careful discussion it was thought advisable to postpone for this year the event, and to hold the next carnival in 1935. This was the unanimous decision of the committee.

The dart tournament will, however, be held this year, as the rules of the tournament state that it shall be an annual event. Councillor D. Goddard has agreed to act as hon. secretary for the tournament.

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> March

#### WOKINGHAM’S NEW LIDO

Alderman W.T. Martin’s Enterprise

It has long been the hope of Alderman W.T. Martin that Wokingham should have its own swimming pool. For thirty years he has urged the Wokingham Town council to provide such facilities but largely on the grounds of expense the proposal has not got very far. So at last Mr. Martin, with the assistance of his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, has taken the matter in his own hands, with the result that this summer there will be at Wokingham one of the finest lidos in the south of England. Alderman Martin’s gardens at Fernleigh house, Shute End, Wokingham, have always been a popular rendezvous for people in the district, and with a splendid swimming pool added at the rear, they are likely to make an appeal to a wider area still.

The new swimming pool is the design of Mr. Cathrow Martin himself. It will be 110 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 9 feet deep at its greatest depth. The water will fall over a

glass cascade, which will be illuminated from underneath. It will then run down a series of stone steps into the pool. Underwater lighting has been provided for the pool itself, giving a sort of perpetual moonlight. No lights at all will be apparent to the eyes. The swimming bath is constructed of concrete with a snowcrete facing, and many tons of steel have been used for reinforcement. At the end of the pool opposite the steps will be a Venetian bridge with three diving boards, two six feet and one twelve feet in height. A curtain of water will be permanently falling from under the bridge. The whole pool will be found to have been designed on most artistic lines.

#### SPECIAL POOL FOR CHILDREN

In addition to the main swimming pool, there is a circular pool, 2ft. 6 ins. deep for children. This should prove not the least appreciated of the facilities provided, for swimmers will not find the larger pool crowded with children, who will not be allowed to use the big pool until they can swim. Parents may with safety leave their children at this smaller pool whilst they themselves are swimming. The children's pool will have its own illuminated cascade.

A novel system of dressing huts is being installed, with a locker for each swimmer. These are entirely hidden from the pool itself, and in no way interfere with the splendid view which is to be obtained at this, perhaps the most picturesque corner of Wokingham. There are also attractive huts from which teas and light refreshments will be served. The filtration plant is also entirely hidden from sight, and is of the latest pattern, purifying the water to a very marked degree. The water from the pools passes through this filtration plant every seven hours. An aeration plant is also being installed; this has been built to the special design of Mr. Cathrow Martin, who has patented the system.

An entrance is being provided from the Milton Road, and there will be an extensive car park. It is hoped that the work will be finished in time to open the "lido" by Whitsuntide. By putting this work in hand last year, Alderman Martin may be said to have done much towards solving the unemployment problem in Wokingham. The excavations and shifting of soil, etc., have naturally meant that much money has been spent on labour and all local men have been employed. Some twenty or more men have thus been provided with a job since last September. The contractors for the building of the pool are Messrs. Froud and Barrett, of Wokingham.

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### SWIMMING POOL AT WOKINGHAM Alderman Martin's Enterprise



## Mayor Cllr. The Rev. C. Mansfield

The New swimming pool which has been constructed at "Fernleigh," Wokingham, by Ald. W.T. Martin and his son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, Was officially opened on Saturday, in the presence of a large company. There included the Mayor of Wokingham (the Rev. C. Mansfield), Lady Victoria Villiers, Ald P. sale, Mr. W.M. Colebrook, General Grant Wilkinson, Captain Evans, Mr. E.S. Whaley, Alderman A.F. Clark (Reading), Mr. L.L. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Chapman, Dr. Ward, Dr. Curl, Alderman M. Blake, the Rev. A.P. Carr, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, the Rev. T.W. Sergeant, Mrs. Pigott, Mr. A.T. Heelas, Mr. C. Goddard, Supt. Butler, Mr. Elliston Clifton, Mr. C.W. Marks.

Alderman W.T. Martin, in introducing the Mayor, said for over thirty years he had been trying his utmost to get a swimming pool for the Borough of Wokingham. When he went on the council 34 years ago it was one of the planks of his election address that they should try to do something to teach the children to swim. They had gone on from year to year, but all their schemes had fallen through. So he had now endeavoured to find something off his own bat. He hoped they had succeeded in producing a bathing place acceptable to all. (applause). They had taken a good deal of trouble to find out the very best. They had the purest water for them to bathe in, so that they could come here and feel absolutely safe. They had adopted one of the finest water purifiers they were able to find. The whole of the designs had been got out by his son. (Applause). They had found a very able man as contractor in Mr. Barrett, who had spared no efforts to carry out the last letter everything so that they would have a swimming pool that would be hard to surpass. Through the construction of the pool they were able to find work for a large number of men, who had worked willingly. They had put their backs into the job, and no hours had been too long in order to get it finished by that day. He felt very proud of the whole of the workmen who had been engaged on the job. (Hear, hear).

### 1.100 Tons Excavated

Mr. F.J. Barrett, the contractor, expressed his thanks to Alderman Martin for giving such a swimming pool to Wokingham. He was very proud of the job, and he thought he had some reason to be. He also thanked Mr. Cathrow Martin for his designing of the pool, which had made his work so much better, and for the very happy way in which they had been able to work together. He also desired to thank his own employees for the good work they had put into the job and the goodwill with which they had carried it out. They had worked long hours to get the job completed, so that at two o'clock that day he was able to say that the job was finished. Actually 1,100 tons of soil had been excavated, and although they could not see it, this was still in the garden. This was due to Mr. Martin's excellent designing. The amount of shingle, sand and gravel used was 650 tons. Other quantities included 110 tons of cement and twelve tons of reinforcements. If the electrician's wire used was measured it would probably amount to the same mileage as that which they had covered in running round looking at various swimming pools in the country.

Mr. Barrett then presented Mr. Martin with an inscribed silver-mounted ebony walking stick on behalf of himself and the workmen. Mrs. Martin was handed a bouquet of carnations.

### A Man of Enterprise

The Mayor of Wokingham said the idea of a swimming pool had been a pet scheme of Alderman Martin's for many years, and as he could not get the council to spend the money to put the matter in hand, he had, with great enterprise, undertaken the work

himself. (Applause). Alderman Martin was a man who had the best interests of the town of Wokingham at heart, and they now saw one of the results of that interest. They had a contractor in Mr. Barrett who had put his whole heart into the job, and it was due to his energy and good management that the pool was ready to be opened that day. The workmen, too, had carried out their job well. In designing such a pretty pool, Mr. Cathrow Martin had done excellent work. He hoped the whole town and, indeed, the neighbourhood, would take advantage of this provision for the health and welfare of the district. The best sign of their gratitude would be for them to make as best use of the swimming pool as they possibly could.

On behalf of Ald. Martin the Mayor then presented a packet of money, to each of the workmen.

The opening ceremony was followed by a swimming display. The opening splash was given by lady members of the Reading Swimming Club, and this was followed by a diving display by Miss L.L. Culium (champion of Hampshire) and Miss K. Culium. Exhibitions of various strokes were given by Mr. S. Bell (Windsor Swimming Club), ex-champion of England, Miss J. Edminson (Reading Swimming Club), champion of Berks, and Miss L.L. Culium. Polo matches were played between Reading ladies and Hounslow ladies, and Reading men and Windsor men. The display concluded with an aquatic exhibition by members of the Reading Swimming Club, and by the Four Lucraties of the Highgate Swimming Club.



The swimming pool is 110 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 9 feet deep at its greatest depth. The water at one end falls over a glass cascade, which is illuminated from underneath. It then runs down a series of stone steps into the pool. Underwater lighting has been provided for the pool itself, so that no lights will be apparent to the eyes. The swimming pool is constructed of concrete, with a snowcrete facing, which gives it a pure white appearance. At the end of the pool opposite to the steps is a Venetian bridge, with three diving boards, two six feet and one twelve feet in height. In addition to the main swimming pool, there is a circular pool, 2 ft. 6 in. deep, for the children. This pool has its own illuminated cascade.

The pools are in charge of ex- Chief Petty Officer W. Gunnee, R.N., who has been instructor to the Royal Navy at Portsmouth for twelve years. He is the holder of the bronze medallion and bar, and the award of merit of the Royal Life Saving Society of which he is a first-class instructor and examiner.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June

THE MAYOR'S DEPARTURE

The Mayor of Wokingham (the Rev. C. Mansfield) has accepted the vicariate of Dunsford, near Exeter, and will be leaving Wokingham later in the year.

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> July

#### OPENING OF EGG PACKING STATION

A national Mark Egg Packing Station was opened at Wokingham on Saturday by Alderman A.E. Priest, the Deputy-Mayor, in the absence through illness of the Mayor (the Rev. C. Mansfield). It has been started by the Berks Co-operative Poultry Producers Ltd., of which Mr. J.F. Wood, "Birchdene," Finchampstead Road, Wokingham is chairman and secretary, and the following directors were present:- Messrs. C.T. Barlow, A. Colombe, H.N. Jones, A.G. Lindfield, C.A. Mack and H.J. Holmes (vice-chairman). The attendance numbered about 150.

Mr. J.F. Wood said their activities would not be restricted to Berkshire. They would go into any area where they were demanded. They had several members from Oxford. He further described the fattening, which he said would be in operation shortly. Here 400 birds could be fattened at one time under the expert judgment of Mrs. And Miss Taylor, who carried off first and second prizes at the Smithfield Show in May. These ladies were taking charge at once. The firm owned the 1½ acres of freeheld land upon which the station stood, and they had secured their market. At first they sent 80% of their eggs to London and sold only 20%, locally, but now those percentages were reversed.

Alderman Priest, after referring to the absence of the Mayor, said the aim of the organisation seemed to be to bring something of the very best to the tables of the public. He congratulated Mr. Wood and his friends who had been enterprising enough to start the station.

Colin Hodgson, a little boy of 2½ years handed a bouquet to Mrs. Priest.

Alderman Priest then hammered home the last of eight nails in a silvered horse-shoe over the front door of the station. The horse-shoe was taken from a depth of 4½ ft. when excavating for the electric supply cable to the station.

Alderman Priest then opened the door with a special key and the company entered the spacious building and inspected the plant, including "candling" (almost equivalent to X-raying, by which defects, if any, are detected), also weighing and the subsequent packing. Collection and distribution are made by the firm's motor.

Figures supplied by Mr. Wood show that the membership of the Berks Co-operative Poultry Producers, Ltd., is 95, and capital subscribed is nearly £400. Four thousand dozen eggs pass through the station weekly, and at the end of August, when contracts expire, this will be increased to 6,000 dozen.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July

#### MISS FRANCES HENLEY CURL



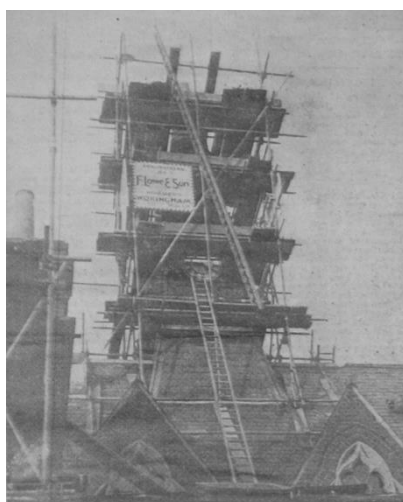
Only daughter of Dr. H.F. Curl and the late Mrs. Curl of Wokingham. Her marriage to Mr. Hugh St. Clair Stewart, older son of the Rev. M.J. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart at Manuden Vicarage, Bishops Stortford, will take place quietly at St. Jude's Church, S.W. on Tuesday.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> September

#### RENOVATING WOKINGHAM'S CLOCK TOWER

##### How a Local Firm Set About the Task

Recently, the Wokingham Town Council approved a scheme to renovate and decorate the clock tower, weather vane, and roof of the Town Hall. The lowest tender, by Messrs. Lowe and Son, of Wellington Road, was accepted, and operations commenced on the morning of Thursday last week. As the clock tower with vane reaches a height of 80 feet, the question of scaffolding, both with regard to stability and construction, became an important one. The local firm sub-let the scaffolding for the work to an expert London firm, Messrs. F. Parker and Co., of West End Lane, Kilburn, who specialises in tubular steel scaffolding. By this method, scaffold poles, and the necessary cording by which they are secured are entirely dispensed with, the material used being lengths of tubular steel, which combine great strength with economy of space. These are stamped and bolted together, as the form of the



framework requires, the various portions slipping one into the other. The method is very expeditious. The whole of the scaffolding required was fitted up by a foreman and four men, between 11 a.m. on the Thursday and 5.30 p.m. on the next day. A few planks only were used for footings, and the three platforms. This is the first occasion on which the method has been seen in Wokingham, and great public interest was aroused in it.

Messrs Lowe and Son have been praised for the provision of this scaffolding, which reduces risk of collapse to a negligible quantity.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### BLACKSHIRTS BUSY

Blackshirt protagonists were busy on Friday evening last week, in open air and other methods of propaganda.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### ST. PAUL'S RENOVATED ORGAN

The renovation of St. Paul's organ, necessary on account of the severe ravages of woodworm, has been successfully accomplished by the contractors, Messrs. P.G. Phipps and Sons, organ builders of Oxford. An electrical blower has been installed. The instrument has been brought several feet forward, and is now adjacent to the stalls of the choir. This has remedied certain acoustic disadvantages in the church, by closing the arched opening of the one-time organ chamber which absorbed much of the tone. While a considerable quantity of the wood and metal has been retained, the parts affected have been removed and replaced. The registration has not been greatly interfered with, but a few of the original sets have been taken out, viz., the trumpet on the swell organ, replaced by a beautiful horn, and the mixed sesquialters on the great organ. Further new stops include the tromulant, vox celeste, and sulcional on the swell organ; clarinet, claribella, and twelfth on the great. The pedals are enriched with bass flute, while additional couplers, and six (instead of four) combination pistons give scope for fuller tone, range, and greater variety of expression. Mr. F.A. Burgess, the organist, shows a fine command of the organ, and its added resources. During Sunday, owing to atmospheric conditions, including marked variations of temperature and moisture, eccentricities became apparent, which the mellowing effect of time will eradicate.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### NEW RECTOR FOR ST. PAUL'S, WOKINGHAM

He Bishop of Oxford has approved the induction of the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres to be Rector of St. Paul's Parish, Wokingham. The Viscount was curate at All Saints', Ryde, vicar of Swindon (Lancs), vicar of St. Mark's, South Farnborough, and curate at St. Barnabus, Oxford.

1935

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT

The scholars of the Baptist Sunday School were regaled at their winter treat in the school room, Milton Road, on Wednesday. A beautiful tea was served and fancy caps were distributed. The Pastor and Mrs. Guyton, Mr. W. Foster (superintendent), and the teachers were present. Games (organised by Mr. Billen), items given by Miss Knight's class, and an interesting turn by Mr. A. Oakley, entertainer, occupied the evening.

#### A NEW PARISH MAGAZINE

With the coming of the new rector of St. Paul's, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, a drastic change is to be made in respect of the Wokingham Parish Magazine. Almost from the time of the formation of the Ecclesiastical parish of St. Paul's there has been a dual journal monthly for the parishes of All Saints' and St. Paul's. There is to be now a new venture. "The St. Paul's Review," edited by the Rev. Viscount Montmorres.

#### THE POLICE BALL

The annual ball of the Forest Division of the Berkshire Constabulary was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday. Visitors numbered three hundred. The M.C.'s were Sergeant Crombie and P.C Huckins. The music was ably supplied by "The



Rhythmicians,” of Sandhurst. (Mr. George Rowley, conductor). Catering was efficiently carried out by Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Crawley, of the Bush Hotel. Among the visitors were the Chief Constable, Superintendents Sellwood, Butler and Braby and ex-superintendent C. Goddard, Sub-Divisional Officer A.T. Heelas (Specials), Councillor S.L. Bowyer, Mr. H. Bowyer, Dr. Kempthorne and others

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH INDUCTION OF THE REV. VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

For the second time in three years, St. Paul's church and parish witnessed an induction to its rectory, when, on Wednesday afternoon, the rector-elect, the rev. Viscount Mountmorres, was instituted and inducted. The proceedings were of an impressive character.

The Lord Bishop of Oxford officiated at the ceremony, and was attended by the Archdeacon of Berks and the Rural Dean of Sonning.

Following the hymns, "Lord, pour Thy Spirit from on high," "Come Holy Ghost," and prayers, the Bishop, seated in a chair at the chancel entrance, received the presentation by the patron, Mr. John Walter, of the rector-elect who then made the usual declarations.

The Bishop then instituted the new rector in the accustomed form.

The rector, accompanied by the Bishop, the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and the churchwardens, proceeded to the church door, where, the mandate of induction in hand, the Archdeacon performed the induction, after which the usual ceremonies were followed by an address by the Bishop, from the pulpit, followed by a closing hymn.

#### List of civic dignitaries

Following the service, a large number of parishioners assembled at the Parish Room, where tea had been prepared by the social committee of the parochial council, to meet the Bishop, the new rector and Lady Mountmorres.

Peals were rung from the belfry, both before and after, the service.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### THE MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM'S DISTRESS FUND

Although little money remains in the above fund, the committee is still assisting a number of local cases. A dance, organised by the dance committee, of which Mr. Alan Perkins is the hon. secretary, will be held at the Drill Hall on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Donations, large and small towards the fund, will be gratefully acknowledged by the Mayor.

#### THE 1935 CARNIVAL

A well-attended public meeting to consider the question of a carnival this year was held at the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Friday last week, the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A.E. Priest, occupying the chair pro tem. The chairman expressed his pleasure at the representative attendance. It was unanimously decided that a carnival be held, and thereupon, the Mayor, Councillor Dr. H. F. Curl, was elected the president, and chairman, and occupied the chair forthwith.

The past executive committee was unanimously re-elected and the following appointments were also made:--Vice-president, the Deputy Mayor; hon. treasurer, councillor G. C. Wilson, and hon. secretary, Councillor D. Goddard.

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, was the date fixed and the enthusiasm shown promised well for the continued successes of the Wokingham Carnivals, which in the past have produced £1,410 for the local charities.

The hon. secretary will be pleased to receive the names of those not present who are willing to assist in any way.

#### THE LAUNDRY COMPANY'S SOCIAL

The annual staff social of the Wokingham Laundry Company, Ltd. (Mr. A. Andrews, managing director), was held on Monday evening in the British Legion Hall, Station Road.

There was a large attendance, and among those present were:- Miss Curl (Mayoress), Alderman A.E. Priest (Deputy Mayor), Mrs. Priest, the Rev. R.F. Guyton, Mrs. Guyton, Mr. Sidney Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb, Mr. G. Webb, Mrs. C. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. Beasley (Maidenhead), Miss Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Fidler, Mr. Miller, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, with the members of their family, did all in their power, and very successfully, to give them a most pleasant evening.

The programme included community games, dancing, songs by Miss D. Sale, monologues by Mrs. Rolf, and recitations by little Eileen Beasley. Mrs Hare played for dancing and Miss M. Webb acted as accompanist, and both were very efficient performers. Mr. Andrews and Mr. A. Andrews, jun., were most capable M.C.s. Refreshments on a bounteous scale were provided.

"The King," proposed by Mr. Andrews, was musically honoured, after which he gave "Their Visitors," expressing satisfaction that the Corporation was represented. Alderman Priest, not for the first time, being present. Some 29 years ago the laundry was started and had shown a steady increase year by year. He paid a tribute to the staff, some of whom had been with them 20 years, two starting on leaving school. With an average increase of £130 yearly, last year showed the biggest increase £560. (Applause.) For that result they were very grateful indeed to their staff, all of whom he thanked for their very loyal service.

Alderman Priest, responding, expressed regret that the Mayor (Dr. Curl) was unable to be present. Alderman Priest said he was not surprised at the employees serving a long time, and added: "Happy feeling between employer and employed makes a happy land." (Hear, hear.) He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Andrews for their hospitality (applause)—and wished them and all the staff the best of good luck.

The rev. R.F. Guyton in a witty speech associated himself with the remarks of the Deputy-Mayor. There was truth in the old saying, "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and while he himself would do his utmost to promote the latter in Wokingham, he felt sure of the co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews in their section.

Mr George Bowers, on behalf of the staff, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and their family, for whom three hearty cheers were given.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews briefly responded.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CARAVAN

On Wednesday, a visit was made to Wokingham by Miss Eva Hasell, in the interests of the Western Canada Sunday School Carvan Fund. In the afternoon, by invitation of Mrs. Moseley, Miss Hasell M.B.E., spoke at a drawing room meeting at Clare Court, the Rev. G. Kenworthy in the chair, a generous response being made to her appeal, while in the evening she gave a lantern lecture on, "By Caravan and Camera in Canada."

#### REMARKABLE FEAT BY A YOUNG LADY

On Sunday afternoon Miss Doris Mewes accompanied the steeplejack who is employed upon the chimney of Messrs. Lawrence's brickyard, to the top of the shaft, a height of 140 ft. The ladder is erected perpendicular to the ground, and Miss Mewes accomplished both climb and descent unaided. She did not once lose her nerve, and, at the summit, had "a good look round" at the beautiful landscape. With the exception of aching muscles due to strain, Miss Mewes has felt no ill-effects for her adventure. Capt W.B. Martin, C.O. Wokingham Fire Brigade, witnessed her achievement.

### THE CARNIVAL

The hon. secretary informs us that arrangements are proceeding satisfactorily, and the help promised augurs well for the future. Inquiries have been received from Fair proprietors, and doubtless, shortly, a Fair will be booked. It is hoped, with the permission from the borough council, to affix to the Town Hall a notice case giving details of the arrangements. All matters pertaining to the carnival must be first placed before, and approved by, the carnival executive committee, and after the next meeting, which will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, many more details will be available for the next publication. The Dagenham Girl Pipers have been definitely booked. Suggestions towards the events, and proposals leading to the success of the carnival, will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary, Councillor D. Goddard, 39, Oxford Road.

### SUCCESSFUL BALL AT WOKINGHAM

#### In Aid of the Mayor's Distress Fund

A ball in aid of the Mayor's Distress Fund, held in the Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Monday, was sold out. Mr. Alan Perkins was the very able hon. secretary, and the organisation was exceptionally well carried out. The dancing area was crowded.

The hall, with decorations kindly left from the recent Territorial Ball, was well suited. Music was supplied by Harry Hook's Piccadilly Dance Band, from Reading, while N. Blake's band, "The Bohemians," acted as relief for the supper dances. Mr. Gordon Reeves was M.C., and Mr. F. Stanley Perkins was announcer. The proceedings went with a capital swing and Mr. Hook's band presented excellent tempo and tone. The Mayor (Dr. H.F. Curl) and the Mayoress (Miss Curl) were present, and the assembly was most representative. The Mayor's Fund received a substantial increment. Councillor Miss Wescott organised the refreshments, her committee comprising: Mrs. R. Rose, Mrs. E.S. Whaley, Mrs. Winlove, Mrs. A.H. Perkins and Miss Finch. Mrs. George Townsend loaned decorations, etc. Miss I.F. Daldorff organised "sweeps" and prizes; Mr. G. Gough gave appreciated assistance with the decorating, and Mr. C. Scragg loaned decorative plants.

There were numerous donors of prizes. The Yorktown (Camberley) Gas and Electricity Company heated the refreshment room while many friends loaned goods or gave their services. Prizes were given by Mr. F. Moore, Messrs. Colebrook and Co., Mr. W.E. Exton, Mr. Goldsack (the Rose Hotel), Miss Daldorff, Councillor G.C. Wilson, Mr. Morgan (Wokingham Electric Theatre), Mr. A. Andrews, Messrs. Sale and Son (Wokingham), Ltd. and Mrs. C. Lee.

#### "Belisha Beacons" Introduced

The dances, numerous and varied, included "Belisha Beacons," a most amusing item, in which the "pedestrian crossing" had to be cleared by two "policemen" every time the music ceased. The "Sergeant-Major's Dance," in which Sergt. Major J. Weaver instructed the dancers by megaphone to break up into line, reform and perform various other evolutions caused much fun. Prize-winners were Mr. J.

Langley, Miss Reeves, Mr. C.H. Patrick, Major-General M. Grant Wilkinsin, DR. Chapman, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. P. Grantham,, Miss Canning and Mr. J. Buckle.

A number of sidelines brought in considerable sums. Miss Daldorph's raffle realised £5 10s.

The cloakroom attendants gave 15s. (half their takings) to the fund. Mr. Wilson's "tote" made £1 1s.

The mayoress presented the prizes to the winners, amid applause, and Mr. H. Watts auctioned and re-auctioned a basket of fruit and other gifts, by which means the Mayor's Fund was augmented to the extent of £2 9s.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to all who had assisted to make the ball such a success. Mr. Alan Perkins thanked the Mayoress for presenting the prizes, also Mr. H. Watts for auctioning the various articles.

A spirit of whole-hearted pleasure prevailed, and it is expected that the total financial results will well exceed those of any previous ball of this description.

Mr. C.G. Wilson is the hon. treasurer.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April

The annual bowling match between the Wokingham Bowling Club and Wokingham Town Council will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### ST. PAUL'S

Considerable interest has been evoked in the advanced ritual recently introduced into the parish by the new incumbent (the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres), who refers in the current number of St. Paul's Review to the fact that a protest was made by Lady Victoria Villiers, who wished her action to be recorded on the minutes, against the use of the word "Mass," and that several members spoke on the subject

#### CURATE FOR ST. PAUL'S

The rector (the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres) announces that the Rev. R.W. Tuesday has accepted the position of assistant curate in the parish. He comes from Carlisle, where, since his ordination three years ago, he has been working on a large and highly organised parish, and is a graduate of Durham University, St. Chad's College, and has studied at Dorchester Theological College. The new curate and his wife hope to come to the parish about the middle of May.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May

#### WOKINGHAM

During a quarter of a century's reign of His Majesty many and great changes have taken place in Wokingham. Notably among the changes have been the breaking up of large estates and residences, including Bearwood and Billingbear, while Buckhurst, Glebelands and other residences have long stood unoccupied. A large number of smaller dwellings have been erected so that London Road, Reading Road, Finchampstead Road, Matthews Green Road and others present a far different aspect from what they did in 1910.

The Town Council have not been behindhand in the matter of housing and they now own 78 houses. In 1927 the borough was extended to five times its former area and shortly afterwards a big drainage scheme, costing £71,000, was carried out, the sale of the gasworks in 1929 providing a capital sum of £86,000, interest on which meets the principal and interest on the necessary loans over a long period of years. The cost of the scheme was greatly reduced by Government grants in respect of the employment of men from distressed areas. No part of the cost has fallen on the rates.

The new Catholic Church of Corpus Christi was built in 1910. Many business premises have been re-fronted during the past 25 years, changing the appearance of the main streets. 'Bus and motor-coach facilities have been developed from the late Mr. M. Blake's one-horse venture daily to very fine services through the town to all parts.

The War Memorial Clinic and the V.A.D.s have come into being within the period under review. The Holt County Council Girls' School marks an educational advance for Wokingham.

Many familiar and honoured people have passed away during the period. These include Alderman E.C. Hughes, H.C. Mylne, D.N. Heron, M. Blake and G.T. Phillips, each of whom had filled the Mayoral chair. Alderman J. Seaward, Councillors E.W. Collis, T. Dowsett, G. Fryer, W.J. Cheeseman, H.A. Hammond, W.H. Goss, C. Baker, W.G. Jefferies, J.S. Goadby, and Major T.W. Greenstreet, while the Marquis of Downshire (first president Wokingham Fire Brigade, Mrs. Murdoch of Buckhurst, the Rev. H.M. Walter, Rector, for 35 years of St. Paul's, Mr. Isaiah Gadd, Mr. H. Farrington Evans, Mr. Samuel Walden, the Butler Brothers (Messrs Tom, Edwin and Henry), Mr. H.T. Martin, the Rev. E.E. Smith (Baptist Pastor), Major Terence Dunne, Captain F. Caiger (Wokingham Fire Brigade) and many others have fallen out after having served well their day and generation.

The four successful carnivals of 1929, 1930, 1932 and 1933, the Wokingham Hospital Bed at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and many other social and philanthropic movements will be recalled and the general and unmistakable must be that the town has made progress.

29<sup>th</sup> June

#### NEW TELEPHONE CALL OFFICE

A new Telephone Call office has been opened at California Sub Post Office.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July

#### LABOUR EXCURSION

On Sunday, members of the Wokingham Labour Party joined an excursion arranged by the Reading Labour Party and journeyed to Brighton by the Southern Railway.

#### THE MAYOR OF WOKINGHAM'S LIST

In connection with the Mayor's list towards the Berkshire Fund of the King George's Jubilee Trust, the following additional donations have been received :- Palmer School gift, £1 2s.; anonymous, 2s.; N.M. and F.M., 10s.; Miss Constance Sale, Rectory Road, 5s. Total to date: £203 6s. 5d.

#### ALL SAINTS' CHOIR AND RINGERS' OUTING

On Saturday Southsea was visited. Starting from Wokingham at 8 a.m., the party travelled by motor-coach, and arrived at 11 a.m. The organist, Mr. A. Yould, was in charge of the party, which was accompanied by the Rector, the rev. G. Kenworthy. Lunch and tea were partaken of at "The Canoe Lake Café." The return journey commenced at 6.30 p.m.

#### PRESENTATION TO REV. C.L. VINSON

The closing meeting of the session of the Wokingham Women's Meeting was held on Tuesday in the Schoolroom, Methodist Church, Rose Street. The rev. C.L. Vinson

gave a fine address on superstition, etc. He expressed his regret at having to leave the circuit. Mrs. W.P. Tucker, the hon. sec., presented him with a set of books: "Studies in Literature. Series I: The art of writing. Series II: Adventures in criticism; with expressions of appreciation and regret from the members.

The usual annual circular tour by motor-coach was taken, the route being to Bucklebury Common, via Barkham, Arborfield, Shinfield, etc. The return journey including Reading. Seventy people took part. On Tuesday the annual outing to Brighton will take place.

## WOKINGHAM ST. PAUL'S

### Successful fete

#### MAYOR PERFORMS OPENING CEREMONY

The Annual parochial fete of St. Paul's, Wokingham (to augment the Parish and Diocesan Funds), was held on Wednesday at "The Elms," Broad Street, by permission of Miss Ellison. The day was delightfully fine. Mr. A.E. Jennings was the able fete secretary and a great deal of work was put in by himself and numerous helpers.

The proceedings were opened by the Mayor, Dr. H.F. Curl, and the Rector, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, who introduced His Worship, was supported on the platform by the Mayoress (Miss Curl), Viscountess Mountmorres, the Misses Ellison (two) and Mr. A.E. Jennings (fete secretary).

The Rector said the number of tickets sold this year was twice as many as before. It was very kind of His Worship to come and open their fete, and he (the Rector) also thanked him for his Jubilee souvenir, presented to every baby in the show. (Applause).

The Mayor expressed his great pleasure in coming to open the fete. It was the first time he had ever opened the fete in his life. The fete was held in order to raise funds for St. Paul's and he knew the immense amount of good the church rendered the community in illness and in trouble. He asked all those present to give generously. Many in the parish had helped (Applause). He thanked the Misses Ellison for the loan of their beautiful garden. The Mayor expressed his great personal interest in the baby show. "Miss Benson," he added, "is the best show producer since Barnum." (Laughter).

Mr. Jennings thanked the Mayor for opening the fete and for his further kindness and also thanked the Misses Ellison and all the people who are supporting the fete. (Applause).

Among those present were: The Baroness Von Biel, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, the Rev. R.W. Tuesday (assistant curate of St. Paul's), the Hon. Mrs. A. Weston, Mrs. Eustace, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Mr. E.H. Perkins, Mrs. King Salter, and Superintendent S.F. Butler.

The following is the list of stalls and those in charge:-Fancy: Mrs. Henlé and the Misses Ellison; Sweet: Mrs. Watson; fruit, flowers and vegetables: Mrs. Rowles, Mrs. Elliott and helpers; Bran tub: Mrs. Willey; Refreshments and ices: Viscountess Mountmorres and Baroness Von Biel; White elephant: Nurse Struth; Teas (served on the lawn): Mrs. Hyde Parker, Mrs. Newberry and helpers.

The competitions included:-Buried treasure: Miss P. Beck and Miss V. Morley; Bowling for leg of mutton (gentlemen): Mr. Canning; Bowling for silk umbrella (ladies); Miss Annis; Darts: Miss M. Adams; Clock golf: Mr. J. Goddard; Hoop-la: Miss Canning; Coin in bucket: Miss Wootten.

#### The Baby Show

Ably organised by Miss Benson, the baby show provided a record entry for St. Paul's fete, the number being 125. Lieut.-Col H. Greany, I.M.S., acted as judge. The infants were prepared for the various tests by members of the 28<sup>th</sup> Berks. V.A.D., to whom Miss Benson expresses her very grateful thanks.

At 4.0 and 5.30 p.m. graceful exhibitions of dancing were given by the teachers and pupils of the Mortimer School of Dancing, Camberley. The excellent programme included Spanish dances in costume, dainty Gipsy dances, duet dancing and many fancy exhibitions, closing with a ballet. All were sympathetically and efficiently accompanied by Miss Milestone, M.O.A.D. (cello), and Miss Collins, L.R.A.M. (piano).

#### The Concert

At 7.15 p.m. a concert, arranged by Mr. F.A. Burgess, the organist of the church, was given in the enclosure by several well-known local artistes, including Mrs. W.J. Strange, Messrs. P. Fuller, W. Westlake, A.J. Hawkins, C. Culver, E. Thatcher (solos); W. Westlake and C. Culver (duet); P. Fuller and E. Thatcher (duet), Miss Webb and Miss Blackman accompanied at the piano.

Messrs. E.W. Mundy, W.J. Willey, C. Bowers and E.E. Summers were "on the gate," and Scoutmaster Wilson (2<sup>nd</sup> Wokingham) was in charge of the programme selling.

The total takings were about £120.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July

#### NET PROCEEDS OF ST. PAUL'S FETE

Mr. A.E. Jennings, fete hon. secretary, announces the gross takings as £144 10s. 5d., with expenses £17 1s. 7d., the net profit for the funds being £127 8s. 10d.

#### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL ANNUAL TRIP

Scholars of St. Paul's went by motor on Friday last week to London for their annual trip. Mr. R. Bagley (head master) was with the party, who visited South Kensington Museum and The Zoo.

#### KING GEORGE'S JUBILEE TRUST

The Mayor of Wokingham has received the following additional donations: Flag day collection, £19 3s. 4d.; Staff and girls of the "Holt" County School, £6; Miss Eccles, £1; total received to date, £229 9s. 9d.

#### ST. PAUL'S CHOIR EXCURSION

The annual choir excursion of St. Paul's took place on Saturday. The venue being Worthing. Mr. F.A. Burgess accompanied the party. Tea was partaken of at "The Mu Dor" café. Mr. A.E. Priest, churchwarden, presented each choirboy with a shilling to spend.

#### PALMER SCHOOL OUTING

Scholars of the Palmer School took part in their annual outing on Friday last week, when they journeyed by motor-coach to London, the itinerary comprising the Science museum, South Kensington, St. Paul's Cathedral and The Zoo. Mr. H.F. Maidment (head master) accompanied the large party, and the outing was greatly appreciated.

#### BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING

Scholars of the Baptist School participated in their annual treat on Saturday, when a party, with Mr. G. Hall in charge, journeyed by S.R. to Bognor, on a half-day excursion, leaving Wokingham at 11 a.m. and arriving at 1.30 p.m.. Home was reached at 9.15 p.m. Tea was partaken of at "The Highbury" Tea Gardens, Bognor. The sea was too rough for trips, but the afternoon was fine till past tea time.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

THE LATE MR. JAMES MOSS  
Former Wokingham Head Master

There passed away at his residence, 1, Crescent Road, Wokingham, on Friday last week, a well-known and respected resident of Wokingham Mr. James Moss, who, on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1885, came to Wokingham (from East Hagbourne School) as head master of St. Paul's Church of England School, a position he held with distinguished ability for 36 years till his retirement at Christmas, 1931. He succeeded Mr. Babbage, and his successor is Mr. R. Bagley, the present head master. He was a "Culham man"—1877-1878.

Of original and humorous disposition, Mr. Moss's memory is cherished by several generations of grateful pupils. He was an educationist of considerable ability, and his published book dealing with spelling was widely circulated in the district, the then H.M.I. expressing great appreciation of it.

The late Mr. Moss was for many years secretary of the local Lodge of Oddfellows. He was a staunch Conservative, and an active member of the local association. He was also a member of the Wokingham Club.

A Fellow of the Guild of Organists, he was a very capable musician and voice trainer, and frequently, for the school services and full church services, officiated at the organ. The school at this time was noted for its singing, and the concerts and operettas arranged by him will long be remembered, particularly "Little Snow White," given in the Drill Hall, and "Lacemakers."

Mr. Moss was, a well-instructed and consistent churchman, very keen on religious education in the elementary school. Members of his school staff generally remained for several years with him.

For many years Mr. Moss was Wokingham correspondent for the "Reading Mercury."

Mr. Moss and his wife (who was Miss Napper, of Hagbourne), celebrated their golden Wedding on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1933.

Mr. Moss, who had attained the age of 77, had suffered much in a long illness, during the last few months of which he had been devotedly attended by Mrs. G. Turner, whose services were greatly appreciated both by Mrs. Moss and himself.

The Funeral

The funeral took place at St. Paul's on Tuesday. The officiating clergy were the Rev. G. Kenworthy (Rector of All Saints), and the Rev. G.W. Tuesday (curate of St. Paul's, Wokingham).

The mourners were—long list.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Oct

REST HOME FOR CINEMA TRADE  
Sir William Jury's Gift of Glebelands, Wokingham

The magnificent country residence, "Glebelands," Wokingham, with its twelve acres of beautiful grounds, has been presented, free of all costs, to the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund, by Sir William F. Jury, of Sherwood House, Bath Road,



Reading, who is president of the fund. The house was formerly the residence of Colonel the Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, at the time when he represented Reading in Parliament.

It is intended to use the premises as a convalescent and rest home, and also as a permanent residence for pensioners of the fund. The building is in excellent condition, and will require only small internal alterations before it is ready for sixty persons, which is considered its maximum accommodation.

The ground floor comprises a lounge hall, large sitting room, dining and recreation rooms, kitchen, pantry and domestic offices. On the first and second floors are the bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. The building is centrally heated and electrically lighted. There are also outbuildings—a coach house, garage, etc.—which will doubtless be put to a good use. There is room, when necessary, to augment the present capacity.

An appeal is being made to the cinema trade for the establishment of Endowment and Maintenance Funds, for which promises of £7,000 have already been made. It is estimated that the new home will involve an expenditure of £3,000 per annum.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov

**WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Jubilee Lime Trees To Be Planted**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Miss R.C. Smith, District Captain of the Wokingham Girl Guides, stating that the Guides were asked to plant trees this year to celebrate the King's Silver Jubilee, and that this district would like to plant three limes if the council would indicate a suitable site. It was agreed that the matter be left in the hands of Alderman Sale and the Borough Surveyor to arrange for sites.

Alderman Sale announced that the three lime trees given by the Girl Guides in celebration of the Silver Jubilee would be planted in Barkham Road Recreation Ground on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the Rector would attend.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

Elected: Town Crier, Mr. H. Banks; Sergeant-at-Mace, Sergt. C. Sparkes; Special Constables, W.D. Pearce, T. Douglas, W.H. Wilson and S.J. Callan.

## 1936

4<sup>th</sup> Jan 1936

**JUBILEE TREE AVENUE**  
**DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AVENUE**

The Town Clerk had received a letter from the secretary to the High Steward (the Duke of Connaught) in which he wrote, "I am directed by His Royal Highness to say that he will be pleased to have the two trees that are to be placed at the entrance of the Silver Jubilee Avenue planted in his name. His Royal Highness also approves of the proposed avenue being named after him."

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jan

**CINEMA HOME AT WOKINGHAM**  
**To be Opened in April**

Generous support has been given the fund which is being raised for "Glebelands," Wokingham, the Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund Home, which was given by Sir William Jury. Cheques and promises received to date amount to approximately

£23,000, much of which is spread over a period of five years, and will be largely required as capital expenditure. It is estimated that a further sum of £100,000 will be needed to produce sufficient income to endow the home permanently.

Workmen have been busy for some time adapting the house to its new use, and it is anticipated that it will be ready for opening about the middle of April. "Glebelands" contains 18 bedrooms, rest room, dining room, recreation room and reception room. It will be centrally heated, and when completed there will be 45 beds and 25 cubicles.

A scheme has been prepared in connection with subscriptions, whereby donors of £2,500 will qualify to name a room, and of £1,000 to name a bed or cubicle. Gifts of smaller sums will give the donor certain titles, and also voting rights. All subscribers up to January 1<sup>st</sup>. 1937 will be founder members.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jan

WOKINGHAM'S WELCOME  
New Postmaster Honoured  
"REMOVING ALOOFNESS"

Wokingham's new postmaster, Mr. J.T. Golothan, received a cordial welcome on Saturday evening, when the staff organised a social gathering at Wokingham Town Hall. The arrangements were in the hands of the social committee, with Mr. F.W. Stokes as chairman. Mr. Stokes, who presided at Saturday evening's function, was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett and Mrs. Barrett), Alderman P. Sale, Mr. J.R. Jay (surveyor for the South Midland District), Mr. R.K. Shipp (manager of Westminster Bank, Wokingham), the Rev. A.P. Carr (Vicar of St. Sebastian's), the Rev. R.F. Guyton (Baptist Minister, Wokingham), Dr. Kempton, Dr. E.F. Smith, Mr. F.E. Chapman, Miss Beryl Stokes, Councillors C. Goddard, S. Bowyer, Miss Wescott, and S. Sale, Mr. S.J. Bilham, Mr. Charles Bowyer, Miss Maggie Jackson (Wokingham Carnival Queen), and others.

After supper apologies were read from General Clifton Brown M.P., the Marquis of Downshire, and Mr. .W. Marks (Borough Surveyor).

The loyal toast was given by the chairman, who also proposed "The Head Postmaster."

Mr. Stokes said the invitations that had been issued had given the staff a tremendous amount of pleasure, and they were pleased to have the public with them in their leisure.

Welfare of the Staff

They welcomed their new Head Postmaster (Mr Golothan) and hoped that he would spend many years with them. Mr. Golothan, who was installed in November, made his first concern the welfare of the staff. The staff responded by arranging that reception, for he, Mr. Stokes, was sure that when Mr. Golothan left Wokingham there would be no cause for celebration. They regretted that Mrs. Golothan was unable to attend through the illness of their son, to whom they wished a speedy recovery.

Mr. Golothan, who was accorded musical honours, said it was usual for a postmaster to be welcomed in that way. He had heard of them being kicked out. (Laughter). He thanked them for their good wishes and hoped that the good feeling that had been manifested would continue during his stay in Wokingham. He would always do what he could for the staff. "As long as each member is treated as a personality there will be no complaints," he added. It was more than a compliment to receive that welcome, he concluded.

"The Visitors" was submitted by Mr. S.J. Bilham, who said he was sorry so many had been turned away that evening. It was a good augury that the public should be

able to join with them. A function of that kind would improve the relations between the Post Office and the public.

#### The Town Council's Welcome

The Mayor, in reply, said he was also in an unusual position, being a visitor in his own parcel. (Laughter). The Town Council and the townspeople welcomed their new Head Postmaster and hoped that his stay would be a long one. He would have the support of the Council, which had always been afforded previous Postmasters, and he (Alderman Barrett) was sure that Mr. Golothan would receive consideration from the public. He, for one, had been sorry for the poor fellows who had been delivering letters during last month, which was the wettest he could remember.

#### Handwriting a Perfect Disgrace

In a witty speech, Mr. F.E. Chapman proposed the health of the "Post Office Staff," and in complimentary terms referred to the efficiency of the Wokingham staff. After remarking on the officials' knowledge, intelligence and patience, the speaker added, "There are some people in this town whose handwriting is a perfect disgrace."

Responding, Mr. J.R. Jay said the Post Office received numerous letters of complaint, but few commendations. However, when these did arrive they made very pleasant reading. The Post Office staff comprised 200,000 people, who were doing their best for the public. They were trying to remove that aloofness, and the P.O. intended to take the public into their confidence more in the future.

An excellent programme was contributed by Mr. Gilbert Savigor (songs), Mr. P.J. Silbrett (conjuring), and Mr. Golothan gave a humorous monologue.

Afterwards the room was cleared for dancing, music being supplied by the Bohemian Dance Orchestra.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### EDWARD VIII IS PROCLAIMED KING

At noon on Wednesday amid full civic pomp and dignity, the Mayor Alderman F.J. Barrett read the Proclamation of his Majesty King Edward VIII to a crowded audience in the Market Place. A large platform had been erected, facing Denmark Street, and upon this were, in addition to His Worship, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. F.J. Curr, the Town Clerk Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton; Aldermen F.B. Eustace (admiral, wearing his decorations); A.E. Priest, F. Sale and E.S. Whaley (Alderman W.T. Martin was absent through illness), Councillors A.H.L. Beale, S.L. Bowyer, G.A. Cheeseman, C. Goddard, H. Goddard, F.S. Perkins, E.W. Reeves, S.E. Sale, J.E. Thorpe, E. Ward, Miss D. Wescott and G.C. Wilson, with the Borough Surveyor Mr. C.W. Marks; also Sergt. C. Sparkes with the mace draped; the Town Crier, Mr. H. Banks; the four Honorary Constables, their historic staves draped; the Marquis of Downshire, the Hon.. Mrs. Corfield, C.C. the Major J.H. Passmore C.O. D. (S) Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Batallion Royal Berks. Regiment (T), Mr. A. Andrews, with draped standard, representing the Wokingham Branch of the British Legion, the Rev. G. Kenworthy, Rector of Wokingham, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres (St. Paul's), the Rev. A.F. Carr (St. Sebastian's), the Rev. J. Conolly (Baptist), the Rev. E.F. Rolls (Methodist), the Mayoress (Mrs. F.J. Barrett), and Mrs. Eustace.

The Town Crier, in his picturesque uniform rang his bell and cried, "Silence for the Mayor."

His Worship then read the Proclamation in clear audible tones.

Representative local bodies formed his interested audience. Children from the following schools were present with their teachers: The Palmer Schools, St. Paul's School, the Wescott Road Council School, Wokingham County Council Girls'

School, the Convent School, Luckley School, Grosvenor School. Others present were Colonel H.I.E. Palmer (representing Wokingham Boy Scouts), Miss Denis De Vitre (Girl Guides), C.O. W.B. Martin (Wokingham Fire Brigade), who, with his stalwart men had formed this guard of honour for the Mayor from the Town Hall to the Market Place platform, Sgt. Major [Wenyer?], Instructor of D (S) Company 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berks Regiment (T) was also present in his uniform.

Following the reading of the Proclamation, prayers were offered by the Rev. G. Kenworthy after which "Oh God Our Help in ages past" was sung led by Mr. A. Yould, F.R.C.O.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### AIR RAID CONFERENCE

At the recent conference concerning Air Raid Precautions, Wokingham Town Council was represented by Alderman J.B. Eustace, Councillors C. Goddard, Beale and Miss D. Wescott.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March

The Mayor of Wokingham was in bed on Thursday with a slight cold.

#### THE MAYOR'S DISTRESS FUND ALLOCATION OF SEED POTATOES, ETC.

As in past years, a limited allocation of seed potatoes will be made to applicants who have been unemployed for considerable periods during the past year. Applications should be made in writing to the hon. secretary of the fund, before the end of the present month, giving the following details: name and address; position and size of garden or allotment, and if an allotment, the number; length of unemployment during the past year; quantity and kind of potatoes requested (only a limited kind are available); if in lieu of a portion of potatoes, other garden seeds are desired, and, if so, what are requested. It should be noted that no applicant will receive more than 56 lbs. of potatoes, or the equivalent, and allocations in quantity will be made according to the discretion of the committee. It is anticipated that this will be the last allocation of potatoes from the fund.

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Estates Sub-committee reported—

The question of the provision of accommodation for the Mayor and the council committees in the Town Hall, referred to your sub-committee by the General Purposes Committee, was considered, and it was agreed to recommend: (a) That the bank room be re-decorated and fitted with cupboards; (b) that the committee room be re-decorated and fitted up for use as a committee room; (c) that the Council Chamber be re-decorated and used as the Mayor's Parlour. It was further agreed to recommend that the borough surveyor be instructed to submit estimates for each room separately and that the work be carried out as funds allow, and that new curtains be provided for the Council Chamber: Paragraphs (a) (b) and (c) were referred back by the Estates Committee for further consideration.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April

Mrs. Catherine Maude Denis De Vitre, of the Manor Gore, died aged 76.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May

#### NEW POLICE CHIEF

Supt. E.J. Braby, of Wantage, commences his work as Superintendent of the Wokingham Division at the end of this week. Supt. S.F. Butler is making good progress after his recent serious illness.

#### A KIND THOUGHT

It was a kind thought on the part of the management of the Savoy Electric Theatre, Wokingham, to entertain about 150 poor and blind people from the locality at the theatre on Tuesday. At a matinee performance of "On Wings of Song," in which Grace Moore takes the leading role, they were given free seats. The Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett) assisted in sending out invitations.

#### POLICE AND CORPORATION IN SHOOTING MATCH

Considerable interest is being taken in the shooting match, which takes place on Thursday next week, between the Wokingham Corporation and the Wokingham Police. The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) has given a cup to be competed for by the police, and a medal for the runner-up has been offered by Councillor S. Bowyer. After next week's shooting match, the Mayor will present the awards.

#### MINISTER'S DEPARTURE

The Rev. Eric F. Rolls, M.A., the popular Methodist minister at Wokingham, is leaving towards the end of the summer. He is eventually taking up a missionary appointment in India. Mr. Rolls, who came to Wokingham from Cambridge in September last year, has done a tremendous amount of work during his short stay, and his powerful sermons have been a source of inspiration. A keen worker among young people, Mr. Rolls' departure will be regretted by a wide circle of friends.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May

#### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Honour for Alderman P. Sale

#### TO BE FIRST FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH

Alderman Philip Sale J.P., is to be Wokingham's first freeman of the borough. This announcement by the Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) at Thursday's meeting of the Council was greeted with applause.

The Mayor said it was the most important thing the council had had before them for many years. "I think I am right in saying that we have never had a Freeman of the Borough," declared the Mayor. A committee was formed to go into the matter, and by unanimous vote it was decided at the General Purposes Committee meeting that Ald. Sale, their senior alderman, "father" of the council, and almost "father" of the town, should be their first Freeman. It was hoped that the honour would be conferred upon him in the near future. Ald. Sale's services to the town had extended for a lifetime.

#### BEATING THE BOUNDS

In St. Paul's Parish, it is hoped that the ancient custom of "beating the bounds" will be observed at Whitsuntide.

### WOKINGHAM WHEELERS

Wokingham Wheelers had a very good run on Sunday, when they visited Watlington, via Henley and the Chilterns. A different route was chosen for the return journey.

### BRITISH LEGION WHIST DRIVE

Winners at Saturday's British Legion whist drive were:- Ladies: 1, Mrs. Blackman; 2, Mrs. Smith. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Griffin; 2, Mr. Smith. Mr. H. Andrews was the M.C.

### THE WALTER MEMORIAL

The Walter memorial, a very beautiful tablet, is now in position in St. Paul's Church, and when the decoration of the vestry is completed it is hoped to hold a dedication ceremony.

### BATHING IN FULL SWING

Many bathers have taken advantage of the advent of real summerlike weather this week and had their first dip at Martin's Bathing Pool, Wokingham, which was opened on Monday.

### LABOUR PARTY

Wokingham Labour Party held their May Day celebrations in the Market Place, when there was an open-air meeting. Speakers included Mr. E.S. Scott (chairman of the South Berks Labour Party), Mr. N.C. Lawrence (president of the Wokingham Labour Party) and Mr. S.J. Miles (hon. Secretary).

### POLICE CHANGES

P.C. Trollope (Theale) has been transferred to Wokingham. P.S. Shand, one of Wokingham's most popular officers, retired last week after 26 years' service with the force. At one time he was associated with the mounted section and had been stationed at Reading, Maidenhead and Mortimer before proceeding to Wokingham in 1934. In his retirement he will reside at Maiden Erlegh.

### CRICKET

Wokingham Police have had a very successful week at cricket. On Saturday they defeated the Reading Division by 68 runs. It was a personal triumph for P.C. Moon (Wokingham), who, in addition to scoring 69 not out, took five wickets for 19 runs. The totals were: Wokingham 131, Reading Police 63. On Wednesday they inflicted a heavy defeat on Abington Police. The Wokingham total was again 131 (P.S. Frazer 34. P.C. Woodridge 24. P.C. Poulter 24). For Abingdon, P.S. Coombe took five wickets for 53 runs. Thanks to the excellent bowling of P.C. Moon, who took six for eight, Abingdon were dismissed for 39.

### FIRE BRIGADE'S HEAVY WEEK

Just after 1 a.m. on Monday, the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Captain W.B. Martin, made a quick response to a call from Winnersh. On arriving at 12, South View Crescent, they found the house well alight. It appears the fire originated in the conservatory, where the heat melted the gas meter and the gas had become ignited. The main tap was turned off, but it was found that the fire had reached the drawing

room adjoining the conservatory. After a hard fight the fire was extinguished. The conservatory was destroyed.

On Tuesday they were called to a small fire in Barkham Ride, where a quantity of gorse and undergrowth had become ignited.

#### WELCOME TO SUPERINTENDENT BRABY

At Wokingham Borough Police Court on Tuesday, the Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) said he felt it his duty and privilege, on behalf of the burgesses, to welcome Superintendent Braby. There had always been a friendly state of affairs between the police and local residents, and he hoped it would still continue. They wished him a very successful stay in Wokingham, and hoped he would be blessed with good health. They were pleased to know that Superintendent Butler had practically recovered, and it was hoped that he would be spared for many years of good health in his retirement. Superintendent said he would endeavour to follow Superintendents Butler and Goddard.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May

#### DEATH OF MR. HUGH GODSAL



We regret to record the death of Mr. Hugh Godsal, of Queen's Arbour, Hurst, which occurred somewhat suddenly at his home on Monday. He had been in poor health since November, but bore his illness with great cheerfulness and fortitude. He was the elder and only surviving son of the late Mr. Edward Hugh Godsal, of Ruscombe Down, and of Mrs. Godsal.

Born at Otakeho, New Zealand, on May 29<sup>th</sup> 1893, he was educated at Oundle School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1914, he was commissioned to the Royal Field Artillery, and in the autumn of that year went to Flanders with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division. He was mentioned in despatches, and in August of 1918 he was wounded. This necessitated his leaving the army, and for a time he was one of the wireless demonstrators in the Marconi Company.

Later Mr. Godsal took up farming on the estate of his uncle, Captain W.C. Godsal, of Haines Hill, and he was the next in succession to the Haines Hill Estate. He took a great interest in local affairs, and had for some time represented the Ruscombe district on the Wokingham rural District Council. In January 1925, he married Violet, daughter of the late Sir Anthony and the Hon. Lady Abdy. He now leaves a widow and one son.

### Coffin on Farm Cart

The funeral took place on Thursday at Ruscombe Parish Church, the coffin, which was draped with a Union Jack, being conveyed on a farm wagon. Tenant farmers on the Haines Hill Estate and employees walked alongside and behind the wagon.

(long list of mourners)

The officiating clergy were the Rev. F.M.Dowland (vicar of Ruscombe), Canon E.J. Norris and the Rev. J.C.F. Wimberley (vicar of Hurst).

The internment was in a grave adjoining that of his father.

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July

### DEATH OF PILOT OFFICER SPENCER

#### The Funeral

Further information has come to hand concerning the death, near Aden, last week, of Pilot Officer Eric W. Spencer, of Wokingham. P.O. Spencer, who was a member of No. 12 Bomber Squadron, was only 20.

He was one of the youngest to attain this rank, and had a promising future. Only a few days before his death he had deputised on a flight for his Flight Commander.

When his machine was reported missing on June 24<sup>th</sup>, an extensive search was carried out. Later the same night, as a result of a discovery by a native a further search was made, and during the early hours of the next morning the wrecked aeroplane was located by a flying boat at a point 25 miles north-east of Aden, 150 yards from the shore. The body of Spencer was found on the beach about three miles from the place of the accident and there was, the Air ministry state, every indication that death had been instantaneous.

The funeral took place with full Royal Air Force honours at 7 a.m. (local time) on June 26<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by large numbers representing the three services and the Civil Administration at Aden.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July

Alderman Philip Sale, J.P., senior member and "father" of the council, received the Freedom of the borough of Wokingham at a special meeting of the Town Council on Thursday evening.

### LORD MAYOR VISITS WOKINGHAM

#### Official Opening of Cinema Trade Home

#### SIR WILLIAM JURY'S LAVISH GENEROSITY

Many figures famous in this film world were present on Thursday afternoon, when the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Percy Vincent) opened "Glebelands," Wokingham, as the convalescent and rest home of the Cinematograph Trade and Benevolent Fund.

The mansion, together with charming grounds of some 19 acres, has been given by Sir William Jury, the president of the fund, and to date the trade has subscribed about £28,000 towards a special maintenance fund of £100,000.

The Lord mayor was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, and by Colonel and Sheriff J.D. Laurie and Colonel and Sheriff J.D. Waldron, and among others present were Mr. Reginald C. Bromhead (chairman of the fund). Mrs Bromhead, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs. A.C. Bromhead, the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Bale), the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman and Mrs. Barrett); members of Wokingham Town Council, Alderman George Ford (chairman of Wokingham R.D.C.) and Mrs. Ford, Mr. Arthur Jarrat (representing the Cinematograph Trade Provident Institution) and members of the council of the fund.



Those who accepted invitations to be present also included: Julius Hagen, Robert Garrett, Victor Saville, Walter Mycroft, Major Bell, J.C. Square, E.H. Lundy, Cecil Hepworth, Captain Alfred Davies, Roy Simmonds, Ernest Verity, John Sutre, T.N. France, R.H. Gillespie, Sinclair Hill, Sidney Bernstein, Cecil Bernstein Will Fyffe, Margaret Scott, Edward G. Robinson, Jane Carr, and Gibb-McLaughlin.

Bouquets were presented to the ladies by the Misses Farth Brook (daughter of Mr. Clive Brook), Patricia Hamilton (daughter of Mr. Neil Hamilton, and Barbara, Gabrielle and Isobel Bromhead.

#### Sir William's Generosity

Introducing the Lord Mayor, Mr. R.C. Bromhead said that their objective in starting the fund and the Provident Institution was to grapple with cases of unemployment, distress and sickness in the industry. They invited Sir William to be president of the fund, and he immediately responded with a donation of £1,000.

They began in a small way; in fact, in the first year they spent a mere £350 in relief. Applications increased rapidly and last year they disbursed over £8,300 for relief, and since the fund was founded, over 3,000 individual cases had been dealt with. Today they had 80 life pensioners.

From the first, Sir William threw himself whole-heartedly into their endeavours. Apart from the mansion and grounds, he had recently agreed to purchase the lodge, and kitchen gardens and another plot of land, thus rounding off the property into one complete entity. (Applause). The decoration and furnishing had cost over £4,300.

The calls on the fund were numerous, but the council were determined that the responsibility of "Glebelands" should not interfere in any way with the general work of the fund. The industry had raised more money for charitable institutions than probably any other trade or profession, and he felt confident in appealing to the trade for its own charity.

Mr. Bromhead then invited the Lord Mayor to declare the building open, and handed him a golden key in appreciation of his kindness.

"Peace and rest"

The Lord Mayor said the very name of the home suggested peace and rest among natural beauty. It was by the lavish generosity of Sir William that he was able to unlock the door. (Applause).

The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the sheriffs were thanked on the proposition of Mr. T.H. Fligelstone (president, Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association), seconded by Mr. F.W. Baker (past president Kinematograph Renters' Society).

The garden party arranged was marred by the rain, but a large party stayed to inspect the house and take tea. Music was by the Reading Temperance Military Band.

The Lord Mayor and his party had been met at Twyford Station by Mr. George Ford, chairman of the Wokingham Rural District Council and not by the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading as previously believed.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### APPEAL FOR NEW FIRE ENGINE

An appeal has been issued by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under the auspices of Lord Downshire (president), Dr. H.F. Curl (hon. surgeon), Mr. W.H. Martin (C.O.), Mr. E. Hawkins (Second Officer), and Mr. C.W. Rawlings (hon. secretary), inviting subscriptions with a view to the purchase of a new motor fire engine, with the necessary fitments, the total cost of which would be £1,000.

The appeal is rendered necessary by the fact that the first motor fire engine, acquired mainly by public subscription in 1914, has recently needed frequent repairs, while the enormous increase in the number of houses in the brigade's area, with its consequent increased risk of fires, makes first-class machines and equipment a necessity. A voluntary brigade, all monies received from attendance at fires is kept entirely apart from annual subscriptions and general expenses, and from this nest egg about £200 can be taken for the new engine. The appeal points out the advantage to property owners and householders of the difference in cost to them of a voluntary fire brigade and one provided by a public authority. Donations may be sent either to Barclays Bank or the hon. secretary, Mr. C.W. Rawlings, 23, Market Place, Wokingham.

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE: NEW ENGINE FUND

The Duke of Connaught, High Steward of Wokingham, has sent a substantial cheque to the Fire Brigade New Engine Fund. The total subscriptions to date reach £360; £1,000 is aimed at.

#### ALARMING EXPERIENCE OF WELL-KNOWN TEACHER

At 10.10 p.m. on Friday last week, during a heavy thunderstorm, an alarming experience was shared by residents of Oxford Road. No. 93, occupied by Miss Cole, a member of the teaching staff of Wescott Road School, and her sister, received the full force of the electric current, which literally split the chimney stack in twain sending showers of bricks flying. Between one and two hundred tiles were displaced from the roof, and the grate in one of the upper rooms was hurled into the room. A mantel clock was turned face upwards without further displacement. Beyond shock, the residents escaped unhurt. Mr. Green, a near neighbour, handling his bicycle at the time of the flash, received a severe shock, which prevented him from going as he intended to the R.M.N.S. at Bear Wood as usual.

#### PRESENTATION TO EX-SUPT. BUTLER

At a parade of the Wokingham Police Division, at Wokingham, on Wednesday, Ex-Supt. Butler was presented with a chiming oak grandmother clock, subscribed for by the officers and men of the Wokingham Division. Inspector Bennett, the senior inspector, in making the presentation, spoke in high praise of Supt. Butler, who, he said, had always been most helpful to everyone, always ready to advise, and never lost his temper. They hoped Mr. Butler would be spared many years to hear the clock chime, and enjoy good health and the rest he had earned. They were all gratified to know that he was restored to health after his serious illness. Ex-Supt. Butler, in reply, thanked the officers and men for their gift. He said he was proud to have been their superintendent, and at the same time to have gained their esteem. He was glad to be with them once again, and wished them all good luck in their future police careers.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October

#### “BRING AND BUY” SALE

At High Close on Wednesday, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield held a “bring and buy” sale, in aid of the Deanery Moral Welfare Board. A large quantity of produce changed owners and a substantial sum (including the sale of tea tickets) is expected. The attendance included the Rural Dean, Canon Anderson.

## NEW FIRE ENGINE

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Wokingham residents are making a big drive to realise a large sum towards the purchase of a new fire engine. On that date a flag day is being held. The Dennis engine, "Swift," which has given yeoman service in the extensive area since 1914, is being replaced by a modern vehicle. The sum of £1,000 is needed for the new engine and accessories.

## PRECAUTIONS FOR AIR RAIDS

Wokingham Scheme Indicated

## COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS

A largely attended meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on Monday, convened by the Wokingham Town Council Sub-committee to inaugurate a scheme for the protection of the public in the event of air raids with chemicals, gas and fire.

The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) presided, and said H.M. Government had advised them to formulate schemes for their own area. Berkshire had a scheme embracing different areas of the county. They were linked so that co-operation between adjoining areas could be made in the event of any work being required in one district or another. Wokingham Borough Council had had a committee running for three or four months now and mostly concerned with linking up with the adjoining areas in the county scheme. The time, they felt, had come when practical work should be done with their own borough. This had been accomplished under the chairmanship of Alderman Eustace, whose absence through illness, they regretted, and they hoped that soon he would be better. They had been very fortunate in getting Dr. Smith to come forward to talk to them. (Applause.)

### A Very Important District

Dr. E.F. Smith said he would be the last person in the world to take any but a serious view of this matter, but they must not get into a panic. Should we get involved in a war, it was most unlikely that the enemy would say: "We don't like Wokingham and its inhabitants, we are going to knock it down." But the town was in the centre of a district well worth any enemy destroying—a very important district, including Slough, Farnborough and Aldershot. The bomber, though more expert than his father was 20 years ago, did not always aim at what he hit! One always liked to get rid of one's load. Quite likely, Wokingham might get hit in that way.

Dr. Smith proceeded to describe the three types of bombs—high explosive, incendiary and gas. The incendiary was the most persistent. It did not burn out quickly; water would not extinguish it. The gas bomb contained a heavy fluid which gave off vapour. This, in a short time deprived a person of his senses of smell and taste, so that he might walk again into the gas without being cognisant of it—a great danger. Another danger—the fumes might lurk in a sheltered place for days. It would be the task of the authorities to see that people were duly warned about it. An X 100 lb. Gas bomb would spray an area as large as Wokingham Market Place.

### Room to which Family could Retire

The Government laid stress on the necessity of having a room in the home to which the family could retire in a raid. Masks could be kept in store, but it would be better to get in a sheltered place. First-aid hospitals—one for men, one for women, with say, 12 beds each would be necessary at first; later 70 hospitals in all. People were asked whether they would be willing to earmark a bed for those hospitals. Bedding, etc., would be needed, so as to be used if and when required. A de-contamination centre had already been reserved for the town—the old malthouse, now the indoor bowling

green in the Reading Road—offered to the council by the authorities last year. People's clothing and property would be decontaminated there from gas.

As it would be necessary to have people who could deal with casualties, St. John Ambulance classes were being held weekly, and it was hoped they would be well attended. Women volunteers, who would attend lectures on first-aid in chemical and gas warfare, were also required.

Dr. Smith dealt with the covering of crevices and apertures so as to make a room gas-proof; and also referred to the necessity of sanitary arrangements. The cellar was difficult to get out from; a room on the second floor was preferable.

#### Appeal for Volunteers

He hoped that volunteers would come forward in preparation for emergency, and referred to the necessity for all to take part in the preparation, as in the event of war., the younger men would be serving as soldiers, and it would be a relief to them to know that those left at home would be able to deal with emergency.

The arrangements had to be made and the materials provided voluntarily, until Government should take over and organise the national work.

It was announced that Miss A. Bland Hill is the administrative head of the organisation. Miss Grenside, assistant commandant, 28<sup>th</sup> Berks V.A.D, in the absence of Miss Cornish (Commandant) has undertaken the training of the nursing dept. of the hospitals, for which volunteers are invited as nurses. Miss Hessay, Welfare sister, will undertake equipment and its collection, and Mr. F.S. Perkins, the transport.

There will be a demonstration of the working of the scheme later in the year.

Dr. Ward thanked Dr. Smith for his services. (Applause.)

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### FIRE BRIGADE NEW ENGINE FUND

The amount received by the brigade for the New Engine Fund has reached £800.

#### CONCERT BY ST. SEBASTIAN'S BAND

As a result of the above concert a profit of £4 5s. 4d. has been handed to the treasurer, towards the New Engine Fund.

#### FIRE BRIGADE BALL

The Fire Brigade annual ball was held in the Drill Hall on Monday. Patrons numbered about 250. Several neighbouring brigades were represented. Fireman F.J. Collins was hon. secretary. The hall was decorated in blue and yellow, the Fire Brigade colours. Music was supplied by the Aces Band, and the catering was carried out by Mr. Rands, of the Duke's Head.

#### ILLNESS OF VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

Last week-end a bulletin was affixed to the church door of St. Paul's with regard to the illness of the Rector, the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres. The announcement ran: "The Rector's illness has taken a turn for the worse, and he is in a serious condition. He is putting up a good resistance, and the doctors hope that he may pull through after a long struggle." Viscount Mountmorrees is in Greenlands, Reading. Viscount Montmorres had a comfortable day on Thursday, and there was a slight improvement in his condition. On enquiry yesterday, we were informed that his condition was unchanged.

## ARMISTICE DAY

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Remembrance service at All Saints', Wokingham, on Armistice Day, and among the congregation was the children of the Palmer School. The rector, who conducted the service, was assisted by the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow. The rector placed a wreath on the Roll of Honour in memory of the fallen of the parish. There was also a service at the war memorial. The Rev. R.W. Tuesday (curate) conducted a service in St. Paul's Church. The sum of £165 10s. was realised from the sale of poppies in Wokingham and Bear Wood on Armistice Day. The collection was organised by Mr. A. Andrews, hon. secretary of the local branch of the British Legion. The collectors numbered 74, and included the Mayoress. Mrs. Eustace, at the Town Hall, was assisted by General P. Molloy and others. The counting was carried out by Gen. Molloy, Messrs. A. Andrews, J.W. Potter, F.W. Martin, W.G. Fidler, and Miss Hessay. There was an increase of £10 over last year.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

## DEATH OF VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES

Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham

### HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

We deeply regret to record the death of the Rev. Viscount Mountmorres, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, which occurred at Greenlands Nursing Home, Reading, on Wednesday morning.

Viscount Mountmorres accepted the living of St. Paul's in the latter part of 1934. He had a distinguished career as a clergyman, explorer and journalist. Few men had travelled so widely, and he was an authority on agriculture in Africa, and ethnography.

Although his views on Church practice were not readily accepted by many of his congregation, he did much to interest the young people of his church. During the short time Viscount Mountmorres was at Wokingham he endeared himself to the people of the borough and took a keen interest in public affairs.

It was after he returned from his vacation this year that he became ill, and about a month ago his removal to Greenlands Nursing Home was ordered. Early this week his condition became critical, and, despite the efforts of specialists, the Viscount passed away. Lady Mountmorres was at the bedside when he died.

### MARRIED TWICE

The Rev. William Geoffrey Bouchard de Montmorency was born in 1872 and was the son of the fifth Viscount and Harriet, daughter of George Broadrick, of Hamphall Stubbs, Yorks. He succeeded his father in 1880. In 1893 he married Louise, daughter of Sampson Taylor Rowe, of Trecarrel, Redruth, by whom he had one daughter, who married Mr. R.B. Hulton, son of Sir William Hulton, Bart., of Hulton Park, near Bolton. In 1934 Viscount Mountmorres married a daughter of Charles F. Cross, The Hermitage, Isle of Wight.

Viscount Mountmorres was educated at Dunkerque, Radley, Balliol College, Oxford, Paris, and Cuddesdon Theological College. He had visited America, the West Indies, Egypt, Morocco, the Sahara and Asia Minor and had covered 10,000 miles in Central and West Africa and the Congo Free State, etc.

He represented Mile End on the London County Council from 1895 to 1898, and took up administrative duties, being Metropolitan and provincial secretary to the Primrose League, and assistant secretary to the Women's Memorial to Queen Victoria. He was Director of the Tropical Institute at Liverpool University from 1905-1908. He acted as hon. A.D.C. to the Governor of Jamaica at the time of the Kingston

earthquake of 1907, and received the thanks of the Jamaican Government for his services.

#### HIS CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

Viscount Mountmorres returned to England and was ordained deacon in 1913 and priest in the following year. He was assistant curate of All Saints', Ryde, from 1913-1917, and among his later appointments were those of chaplain to the Winchester Diocesan Deaconesses' Institute; vicar of Swinton, Lancs.; and chaplain to Manchester Poor Law Guardians. He was vicar of South Farnborough from 1925-1933, and afterwards became curate of St. Barnabas' Oxford, and licensed preacher in the diocese of Guildford, for which Diocese he was Proctor in Convocation. He was also chaplain to the Royal naval Volunteer Reserve.

The Viscount was the holder of the Society of Arts silver medal, awarded in 1905 for contributions to Ethnography, and the Lagos Government gold medal for agricultural lectures, 1906.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERATURE

He contributed much to the Press and lectured extensively. His publications included the following: "The Congo Independent State" (1906), "Maize, Cocoa and Rubber; Hints on their Production in West Africa" (1907), "Some Ignored Factors in International Economics" (1905), "The Races of the Unknown Heart of Africa" (Society of Arts, 1905), "The Commercial Possibilities of West Africa" (1907), "Notes on the Jamaica Earthquake" (Tropical Institute, 1907), "intercessions in Time of War" (1914), "National Mission Plain Tracts" (1916) and various papers and monographs on tropical agriculture and commerce.

Viscount Mountmorres served as a lieutenant in R.N.V.R.

#### THE NEW VISCOUNT

The new Viscount is in the Church, having been Rector of St. Modoc's, Doune, Perthshire, since 1922 and an Hon. C.F. He was born in 1879 and he is a son of the late Hon. Arthur Hill Trevor de Montmorency, M.D., who was a son of the fourth Viscount. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and gained a medal and two clasps for his services as a trooper in the Boer War. He was ordained in 1907 and held curacies in Ireland until 1914, when he became rector of Omeath. Interested in local government work, he was Bailie of the Borough of Doune in 1927, and was a parish councillor for Kilmadock from 1928-30. He is married and has two daughters.

#### THE FUNERAL

The funeral service at St. Marks, South Farnborough, on Friday morning, was preceded by a celebration of High Mass, the vicar, the Rev. C.R. de Lyons-Pike, being the celebrant, assisted by the Rev. H.C. Hukin and W.G. Sanderson. The interment followed in Farnborough Cemetery.

(Long list of mourners)

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### GEORGE VI IS PROCLAIMED KING

At noon on Monday, the Mayor of Wokingham, Alderman F.J. Barrett, who was accompanied by his Mayoress, the aldermen, councillors and officials, the clergy and representatives of public bodies, read the Royal Proclamation from a specially erected platform in the Market Place. The civic party included: the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor was attended by the Sergeant-at-Mace (Sergt. C. Sparkes), Special Constables, under Captain Tutte "kept square" in the Market Place, the centre of which was occupied by the band of the R.M.N.S., with Mr. J. Preston in charge, Mr. Green, bandmaster, being unavoidably absent

The Mayor, having read the Proclamation, said, "Citizens of Wokingham, I am sure that whatever regret we may have had over the happenings of last week, one thing stands out of it, over which we may well be pleased – the way in which the whole of the Royal Family have acted in this crisis has been splendid. We Wokingham people will give our loyalty unstintedly, to the new King and Queen." The R.M.N.S. band then played the National Anthem. The Mayor then said, "I call upon you to give three cheers for His Majesty King George and the Queen and one cheer for the Royal Family". These were given most heartily.

The V.A.D. were called to attend to a woman in the crowd who had fainted.

The Wokingham Fire Brigade were on duty at a rick fire at Folly Court so were unable to be present but were represented by their Chief Officer.

## 1937

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Feb

### WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

#### Gift Of An Old Print

At Thursday's meeting of Wokingham Town Council it was decided to thank Mr. A.T. Heelas for his offer of a print of the Market Place, showing the Old Town Hall and the old Rose Inn at Wokingham. The print is dated about 1750. The Mayor (Alderman F.J. Barrett) presided.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> March

The Mayoress of Wokingham (Mrs. F.J. Barrett) is the first to wear the chain of office which was presented at Thursday evening's meeting of Wokingham Town Council by Councillor Miss Dorothy Wescott.

The Mayor (Ald. F.J. Barrett) said that this year a national event of great importance, the Coronation, was taking place. Fifty years ago Wokingham, with the rest of the country, was celebrating the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. At that time there was no chain of office, and the then Mayor (Ald. T.M. Wescott), to remember the year, had a medallion made. In December last Councillor Miss Wescott expressed the wish that she would like to present the medallion to the borough, and it was thought that it would be a good emblem to be worn by the Mayoress of Wokingham. Miss Wescott offered to give a chain. The hard work of Miss Wescott on the council was well known. She was blessed with a large amount of public spirit, and in giving that chain and medallion she was showing that spirit to the full.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> March

### WOKINGHAM COUNTY GIRLS' SCHOOL

A spacious assembly hall, science laboratory and classroom at Wokingham County Girls' School, were formally opened by Dr. T. Franklin Sibly (Vice-Chancellor of Reading University), prior to the school's first speech day on Wednesday.

### PARISH CHURCH RECORDS

Records of the parish church have been compiled in book form by Canon B. Long, who was Rector of the parish from 1904 to 1933. It contains three parts—"Historical Notices," starting from pre-Norman times, "The Parish Church," with a description of its main features, and records of many monuments of interest, and thirdly, "Church Officers," with a list of incumbents, assistant curates, churchwardens and other

officials. It contains 13 illustrations. The appendices give copies in Latin and English of thirteenth century inventories and other documents. A full reference index is provided.

#### GIFTS TO SCHOOL

The daughters of the late Mr. Henry Butler have presented to the Wescott School Council School the following interesting local collection, with the inscription on a brass plate upon the cabinet containing them, as follows: "Local British butterflies. Collected between 1870-1890 by Mr. Henry Butler, secretary of the British School at Wokingham from 1869-1911, and manager of the Wescott Road Council School from 1906-1932. Presented in his memory by his daughters." The collection is in a cabinet with a tier of sliding trays, each with a handle, and the collection contains many large and beautiful specimens.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March

#### INQUEST ON LADY MOUNTMORRES

##### Death at Farnham

The inquest on Tempe Irene Viscountess Mountmorres, who was found dead in her garage, was held by the Coroner for west Surrey, (Mr. G. Wills Taylor) at the Court House, Farnham, on Wednesday morning.

Mr. F.C. Cross, of "Highways," Farnham, gave evidence that he last saw his daughter alive soon after 11 o' clock on Saturday night. She was then very well physically, but her husband's death on December 2<sup>nd</sup> last year had been a great blow to her. When he was awakened at about 2.30 on Sunday morning by the dog barking, witness made investigations and, going towards the garage, heard the engine of the car running. "I opened the door, which was not locked," Mr. Cross continued, "I went in and found my daughter sitting at the wheel of the car. I caught hold of her and pulled her into the open."

Mr. Cross said he thought Lady Mountmorres had intended going for a walk with the dog and as it was raining she went into the garage, sat in the car and started up the engine to go for a little run round with him. He could see no reason for its being other than an accident. She had been suffering from sleeplessness.

P.C. Cox stated that behind the car he found an 18 foot length of corrugated rubber tubing and the condition of dust on the floor was consistent with the tubing having been drawn through it. The tubing had been cut away from a tap used for washing down cars. The cut was a fresh one. For 18 inches at one end the tube was covered with a sooty substance consistent with its having been placed in the exhaust pipe of the car. He searched the garage to try to find an instrument capable of cutting the hose, but could not find anything. Subsequently Mr. Cross produced a bread-knife, which he found in a pocket of the car.

Dr. Eric Gardiner gave evidence that Lady Mountmorres' death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The coroner returned a verdict of "Found Dead," the cause of death being carbon monoxide poisoning from the fumes of the car

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### WOKINGHAM VESTRIES St. Paul's Difficult Year PROTEST AGAINST SERVICES



The newly appointed Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, the Rev. the Hon. Patrick J. Hepburn-Scott, attended the annual vestry and parochial church meeting at St. Paul's School room on Thursday evening. The Rev. R.W. Tuesday (curate and priest-in-charge) presided.

The priest-in-charge welcomed the new rector and announced that the Walter memorial would be unveiled by the Bishop of Buckingham on Monday next at 3 p.m.

Overdraft of £170

Mr. R. Haye (church treasurer) presented the balance sheet which showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £94 10s. 9d., and concluded with an overdraft of £170 16s. 3d. The available income totalled £855 12s. 7d. and the expenditure of the parish, £1080 1s. 3d. Church collections amounted to £216 17s. 11d., free-will offerings and the Duplex Scheme, £177 6s. 8d. Donations and subscriptions totalled £307 4s. 3d.

The report was adopted.

The following were the elections:- Ruridecanal Conference representatives: Miss A. Berendt, Miss M.I. Ellison, Mr. T.W. Hawkins, Miss M.V. Houlding, Mrs. Hyde Parker, Mr. A.E. Jennings, Mr. E.W. Mundy, Mrs. Newberry and Mr. A.H. Newberry and Mr. W.J. Willey. Parochial Church Council: Miss M. Berendt, Mr. R.A. Canning, Mrs. R. Henle, Miss H. Price and Mr. E.R. Thatcher (elected for three years).

Captain King-Salter was re-elected auditor.

Mr. Mundy moved a resolution asking that meeting to cancel a resolution of 1935 electing members of the church council for three years., one third being elected each year. He said the members should be elected each year for one year only. This was seconded by Mr. R. Willey and carried, 34 voting for and four against.

Mr. W. White said it grieved him to see the choir stalls empty and the fact that the bells, one of the most beautiful peals in the district were never heard. "It is a disgrace and I am one of those people in this room who would like to see the services moderated so that people can come to church," declared Mr. White. "They have been driven away and the choir have been driven away. When the new rector comes I hope that something will be done to get these people back again. We go to church to worship God and not material."

MR. CATHROW W. MARTIN MARRIED  
Ceremony at Wokingham  
DESIGNED BRIDE'S AND BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES



Mr. Cathrow William Martin, son of Alderman W.T. Martin, J.P., and Mrs. Martin of Fernleigh, Wokingham, was married to Miss Eileen Betty Makison on Easter Saturday at St. Paul's Church, Wokingham. The service was conducted by the Rev. W.G. Pritchard M.A., B.Sc. of St. Mary's Church, Gloucester, who is a friend of the bridegroom, and he was assisted by the Rev. R.W. Tuesday, of Wokingham. The beautiful dresses worn by the bride and bridesmaids were designed by the bridegroom, who has gained a wide reputation as a dress designer, and is principal of the Revill Fashion School.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May

#### WOKINGHAM'S FESTIVITIES FOR THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI Children Play an Important Part

The pealing of church bells heralded Coronation Day at Wokingham, and the inhabitants had spared no pains to make the little town its brightest. The spirit of gaiety was abroad and everyone seemed determined to make the best of a most ambitious and full day's programme.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Alderman and Mrs. F.J. Barrett) were among the busiest people, and they joined in the fun in a wholehearted manner. Outstanding among the decorations in the town was the Town Hall and entrance to the Fire Station, which was looking most attractive with bunting etc., relieved by evergreens, making the whole layout distinctive and original. Owing to the rain in the evening, the dancing in the Market Place had to be cancelled.

Councillor and Mrs. E.F. Smith offered to give a Savings Certificate to each baby born in the borough during Coronation Week, and Coronation souvenirs were given to babies born between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>, and any babies born on Coronation Day.

#### CORONATION BABY

Wokingham's Coronation baby was a boy, born to Mrs. Cane, of 3, Wooshill Lane, Wokingham, and he will be called George Edward.

The smooth working of the celebrations was a tribute to the labours of the various committees who were responsible for the arrangements. It can be said that everything went off without a hitch, and the schedule was generally well observed. The principal committee was the General Executive Committee, which comprised: The Mayor (chairman) the Deputy Mayor (Councillor dr. H.F. Curl) and Councillor S.L. Bowyer (representing the General Entertainment Committee), the Rev. J. Conolly and Councillor G.E. Thorpe (representing the Sports Committee), Alderman Philip Sale and Councillor A.H.L. Beale (representing the Planting Committee), Councillor G.C. Wilson and Alderman E.S. Whaley (representing the Decorations Committee), the Mayoress (Mrs. Barrett) and Miss D. Sale (representing the Senior Tea Committee), the Deputy Mayoress (Miss E.E. Curl) and Councillor Miss D. Wescott (representing the Children's Tea Committee), the Rev. G. Kenworthy (representing the Service Committee, the Town Clerk (Mr. J.H. Elliston Clifton) the Borough Surveyor (Mr. C.W. Marks), Mr. H.W. Leaver (hon. treasurer) and Miss Harwood (hon. secretary).

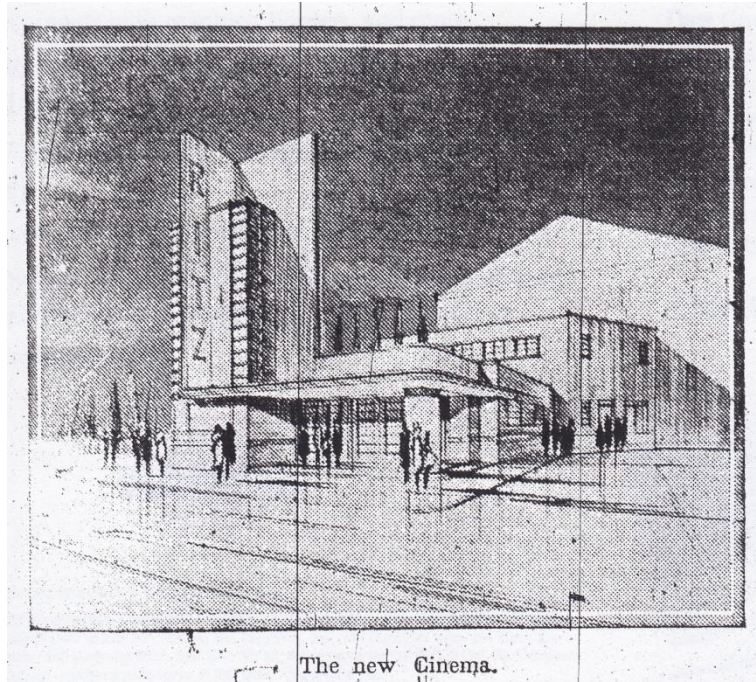
Other committees were: General Entertainment Committee: the Deputy Mayor (chairman), the Mayor, Aldermen: J.B. Eustace and Whaley, Councillors Bowyer, W.C. Fullbrook, D. Goddard, S.J. Miles, Miss Wescott and Wilson, Messrs Bagley, Browne and Maidment, Chief Officer W.B. Martin, Supt. E.J. Braby, Major E. Denley, the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, Mr. J. Langley and Major J.B. Passmore.

Sports Committee: the Rev. J. Conolly (chairman), the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Alderman A.E. Priest and sale, Councillors Beale, H. Lush, F.S. Perkins, S. Sale, E. F. Smith and Thorpe, Mrs Petersen, Messres. Bagley, Browne and Maidment, Colonel

H. I.E. Palmer, Misses Finch, M. Goddard and R. Smith, Messrs H. Brooker, J. Goddard, Meacham, Moles and Wilkins and Scoutmaster Wilson.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May

WOKINGHAM'S NEW CINEMA  
Mayor to Perform Opening Ceremony



The new Cinema.



AT THE OPENING of Wokingham's new cinema, the Ritz, on Saturday. The Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. F. J. Barrett, are in the centre. The Mayor performed the opening ceremony. On the left is Dr. H. F. Curl, and on the right the town clerk, Mr. J. H. Elliston Clifton.

Today (Saturday) "Union Cinemas' Ritz" will be opened to the public, and the Mayor of Wokingham (Alderman F.J. Barrett) J.P. will preside at the opening ceremony, which will take place at 2.30 p.m.

*Union Cinemas have set a unique standard in the furnishing and equipping of their theatre, incorporating the most modern ideas in design, combined with the ideal comfort for patrons. The new "Union Cinema' Ritz, Wokingham has been erected and equipped under the direction of Mr. J.H. Lundy of Union Cinemas Ltd., the architect being Norman Bailey; F.R.I.B.A. who has worked in consultation with Mr. Eric F. Tully L.R.L.B.A. the company's staff architect.*

The new cinema is the most imposing building and occupies a commanding position a short distance down Easthampstead Road after turning out of Peach Street, the main thoroughfare of Wokingham. It affords a new car park with separate entrance and exit doorways and an exit into Denton Road for pedestrians

The main elevation to Easthampstead Road is carried out in red sand-faced bricks with stone dressings and is of light modern design. The entrance doors are featured on the corner facing towards the main street and are surmounted by a broad canopy, lighted on the underside by Neon tube lighting, whilst the opposite corner runs upwards in the form of an imposing tower and is in turn featured by tall projecting vanes to the front and side. These vanes serve the purpose of displaying the theatre name and are picked out in Neon lighting.

The auditorium seats are all set radially thus affording a perfect vision of the screen from all positions and are served by gangways of generous proportions leading to exits at the front and rear.

The interior scheme is in a light decorative trend and much use has been made of Spray texture on which the varying tones of colour give a very pleasing effect, whilst leading the vision to the main decorative feature on the anti-proscenium walls. Excellent effect has been given by the two ornate grills set on either side of a large vertical cove, draped with silk and satin materials and artistically lighted.

*The main auditorium lighting is by means of chandeliers of exceptional beauty and decorative dome lighting far in advance of the usual type of lighting schemes usually associated with the modern cinema.*

Altogether the new "Union Cinemas Ritz," Wokingham regarded in detail or as a homogeneous whole must take its place as an important, as well as an imposing structure in the architecture of modern entertainment.

#### Latest Sound System

In the projection department many thousands of pounds have been spent on the finest equipment obtainable. The famous B.T.H. Sound Reproducing apparatus has been installed together with the latest high intensity arcs and powerful modern projectors

It is incredible what an important part electricity plays in a modern super cinema, and the new "Union Cinemas' Ritz" is perfect in this respect.

Electricity is called upon to serve patrons from the moment it delivers tickets at the paybox. It lights warms and ventilates the building; works the clocks; operates the curtains; projects the films; reproduces the sound—and a hundred and one other details.

#### "Manufactured Weather!"

The wonderful air conditioning plant which has been installed is another of the most important features in the "Union Cinema Ritz". It literally manufactures weather conditions, for, by its means, the air is washed as it enters the building and every patron is served with a specific quantity of purified air, warmed or cooled to



suit varying external conditions. When it is hot outside the building the patrons will find it beautifully cool inside and on the other hand when it is freezing outside the auditorium will be comfortable, warm and cosy.

It is gratifying to know that the new "Union Cinemas Ritz" has been built by local labour and local materials have been used as far as ever possible

The finishing touches are now being put to the new Union Cinemas Ritz, Wokingham, which will be opened to the public today (Saturday), at 2.30 pm and the programme that has been arranged for the opening ceremony and for the next week includes "Girls' Dormitory," starring Simone Simon. This film was especially selected to introduce Simone Simon to the screen, and she is surrounded by an impressive cast, which includes Herbert Marshall and Ruth Chatterton. "Girls Dormitory" is supported by "Three Married Men," a sparkling clever and true-to-life domestic comedy. Monday brings, for three days, "This'll Make You Whistle". This gay musical film has proved Jack Buchanan's greatest laughter maker. As in the play, Elsie Randolph plays opposite him, while Jean Gillie, who is gradually paving the way to stardom, plays another important role. For the same three days is "Parole," gangster drama, which stars Henry Hunter, Ann Preston and Allan Dinehart.

On Thursday, for three days, Shirley Temple appears in "Dimples." Replete with laughter, romance and drama, "Dimples" tells the story of a lovable little street minstrel, and her incorrigible but irresistibly funny guardian, Frank Morgan. This film is supported by "Star for a Night," which features Claire Trevor and Arline Judge.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June

#### CINEMA PROGRAMMES

On the first three days of the week at the Ritz, "Ramona" is showing, photographed entirely in colour. Loretta Young has the title role, with Don Ameche as her Indian lover, and the pathetic love story and natural beauty of the scenery provide interest for all. The supporting film is "Back to Nature." At the week-end "The General Died at Dawn" is the chief feature. Gary Cooper is cast as a soldier of fortune, and Madeleine Carroll as an adventuress who plots against him and later falls in love with him in this exciting tale of Chinese bandits. The second feature is "Come Closer, Folks."

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Millions," with Gordon Harker, is the featured film at the Savoy. The story deals with the efforts of a self-made financial power to break into society in spite of the efforts of his snobbish business rival. The second film, "Two in a Crowd," is a romance starring Joan Bennett. The clever satirical comedy, "My Man Godfrey," in which William Powell portrays a down-and-out who becomes butler to a rich, but mad, family, is showing during the second part of the week. Carole Lombard is the daughter who causes the most trouble and finishes up as Godfrey's wife. Also in the programme is "Crash Donovan," starring Jack Holt.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June

#### CHUMS' CLUB

*Last Saturday close on 500 happy children were enrolled as members of the Union Cinemas Ritz, "Chums Club". A glorious time was spent by the youngsters, a special programme being provided for them which included comedies, cartoons and cowboy films. The Union Cinemas Chums' Club meets every Saturday morning at 10 am and membership and badges are free. The president of the club is Shirley Temple. Every week the youngsters will enjoy community singing, and prizes will be awarded for various competitions amongst them*

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> July

### CHOIR OUTING

All saints choir and bell-ringers held their annual outing on Saturday, when a pleasant time was spent at Bournemouth. Mr. A. Yould accompanied the party. Scholarship successes

### UNDER ESCORT!

Considerable interest was shown by Wokingham people when the cashier and commissionaire of the Union Cinema Ritz, in full uniform, were escorted through the town by a battalion of soldiers (Wokingham Territorials) to Union cinema's Savoy, where papers in connection with the film, "O.H.M.S.," were picked up. The ceremony was performed in real military style; one of the officers made a full inspection of the guard. Full sentry guard was stationed round the theatre, complete with machine guns, etc. Traffic was held up for a considerable time during the march and changing of the guard, owing to the street being blocked by hundreds of sightseers.

### UNION CINEMA RITZ

"Romeo and Juliet," starring Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard, was a film of superb acting. "Without Orders," a thrilling story of the air is showing today, and features Robert Armstrong. The supporting film is an exceedingly funny one, "Country Bumpkins," with Stuart Erwin in the chief role.—On Monday, "More Than a Secretary" presents George Brent as the very serious-minded editor of a health magazine, who practises what he preaches. Jean Arthur is the prim proprietress of a secretarial school, who is forced to take a job as the editor's secretary because there is no suitable pupil available. When the editor becomes ill she fulfils his duties, and makes the magazine much more human and infinitely more alluring. The editor's anger melts when his chief approves the innovations, and much later he discovers his love for his secretary. Difficulty and misunderstanding arise before a satisfactory solution is reached. The second feature is "Alibi For Murder," with William Gargan in the leading role. On Thursday "The beloved Vagabond" is being shown, with Maurice Chevalier as W.J. Lock's hero, Paragot, in a gesture of self-sacrifice, surrenders his English sweetheart to a crafty rival, and adopts an urchin, whom he takes on a Continental walking tour. Desmond Tester is the boy and Betty Stockfeld the lady. "Longest Night" is the second feature, starring Florence Rice and Robert Young.

### UNION CINEMA SAVOY

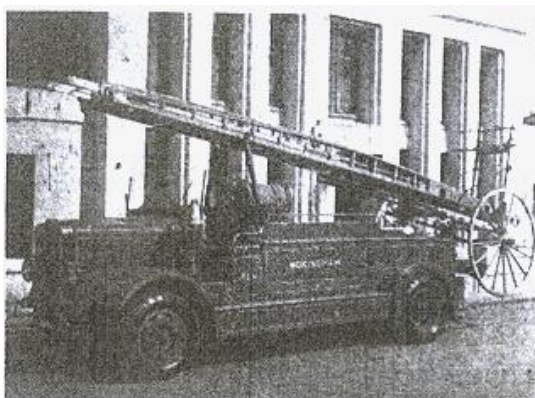
Mae West's entertaining film, "Go West Young Man," was the chief film at the early part of the week. "Secret Patrol" was in support. "Champagne Waltz," with Jack Oakie is showing today and it is a film which includes some delightful music. The supporting film is "Postal Inspector," starring Ricardo Costes—"Men Are Not Gods," which is showing on Monday has an unusual plot. Ann Williams is secretary to the most famous dramatic critic in London. One night London is presented with a new production of "Othello," with a newcomer Edmond Davey, in the title role, and when at night the famous critic returns to his office and dictates to his secretary his criticism of the production, it is a scathing attack on the young actor. Just after the critic has left Ann receives a visit from Barbara, wife of Davey, who appears in the play as Desdemona. Responding to her impassioned plea, Ann re-writes the criticism as a hymn of praise for Davey. Later the grateful Barbara invites Ann to her home to meet Davey, and unwittingly Ann and Davey are attracted to each other. There is a startling climax in which one woman saves the life of the other and loses the man they

both love. Miriam Hopkins, Gertude Lawrence and Sebastian Shaw are the three central figures. "Gangster's Bride" is the supporting film. "NO Exit" is showing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, featuring Billy Milton and Leslie Perrins. A British melodrama of two men playing a game of murder, the supporting film is "Captain's Kid," featuring Guy Kibbee.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July

#### FIRE ENGINE

Wokingham's new fire engine which was delivered on Wednesday.



Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.

#### THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE VISIT WOKINGHAM FOR TOWN'S CORONATION CARNIVAL

Day Of Revelry To Raise Funds For Charity  
PROCESSION OVER A MILE LONG

Programme OF Events From Early Morning Till Late At Night

The Coronation year of 1937 has been one of magnificent functions in Berkshire, but none of its many towns and hamlets can successfully challenge the claim of Wokingham, which boasts of the finest carnival of the year.

Wednesday's effort, the Coronation carnival, will go down in the town's history as one of the finest ever held there.

Thousands came into Wokingham on Wednesday to watch the proceedings and there was not a dull moment from eight o'clock in the morning until an early hour on Thursday. They thronged in the Market Place in the afternoon to see the Mayoress (Mrs. F.J. Barrett) crown the Carnival Queen (Miss Joan Grist) and, after watching the other events, came back to line the streets to see a memorable carnival procession for a small town. It was, in fact, about 1½ miles long, full of interest and originality, several of the entries being thoughtful and cleverly staged.

The carnival spirit was in the air, and everyone, old and young, participated in a most memorable and delightful programme of events.

#### A NEW FINANCIAL RECORD?

The tranquil everyday life of Wokingham vanished in a night. On Tuesday evening townspeople worked up to a late hour making their house and premises as bright and colourful as possible.

When the final balance sheet is made public it is quite possible that Wokingham will have a new financial record.

One can trace the gradual popularity and purpose of Wokingham Carnival from 1929. Up to Wednesday five carnivals had been held, resulting in total gross proceeds

of £7,838 5s., and of this sum £600 has been passed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital through its local committee. The remainder has been devoted to numerous other deserving charities. The committee make a point of spending every possible penny of the expenses of the carnivals in Wokingham, and a large proportion of the amount allocated has again been circulated in the town.

Practically everyone in the town has an interest in the carnival, which is always an eagerly awaited event.

This year the executive committee could not have selected a more popular president and chairman than the Wokingham-born Mayor of the town, Alderman F.J. Barrett, who has thrown himself heart and soul into the preliminary arrangements. He has had an able deputy in Councillor H.F. Curl (deputy mayor), who, much to the public's regret, was unable to be present at the 1935 carnival held during his year of office owing to ill-health.

#### PICTURESQUE DECORATIONS

Wokingham prides itself on the splendid and colourful decorations during Carnival Day. A reporter of this paper made a tour of the town on Tuesday evening in order to see the interest that people took in making Wokingham worthy of the occasion. They certainly made a good job of it. Most people made use of their effective Coronation decorations. The Town Hall lost most of its drabness because the brickwork had been covered with shrubs, bunting and flags. The police had also done their best to decorate their station with flags and bunting. Wokingham's new flower baskets in Broad Street gave the decorations an added brilliance. Business premises were a feature of the decorations. Practically all the larger shops had attractive window displays. Fairy lights twinkled everywhere, and everyone had caught the carnival epidemic.

The sun was shining brightly on Wednesday morning, when, soon after 7.30, the "Rag" collectors assembled at the Town Hall to receive their collecting boxes. At eight they went into the highways and byways to try to break their previous collection for a carnival "rag," the splendid sum of £107 13s. 1d. raised at the 1935 carnival.

#### DISTRICT TOURED SUCCESSFULLY

Mention must be made of the fact that before Carnival Day they toured the district for several nights. They sold several hundred programmes in Reading, where their appeal was met with a ready response. The collectors even "went to the dogs," and there in one night 94 programmes were disposed of. It is stated that nearly 2,000 programmes were sold before Carnival day, into the area covered by the collectors, and this included visits to Camberley, Windsor, Crowthorne, Sandhurst, Binfield and Bracknell. The "rag" collectors certainly brightened up the proceedings with their activities. Over 125 boxes were taken on Carnival Day. Mr. C.G. Gough, of Embrook, carried out the duties of "rag" secretary, and the chairman of the "rag" committee was Mr. G. Rogers. No-one could refuse them, and those who travelled in motor-cars were held up to ransom gave generously. The collectors appeared in a variety of costumes—highwaymen, pierrots, golliwogs, etc.

#### A HUGE LUMP OF COAL

Miners at Cannock and Rugeley Colliery were responsible for getting to Wokingham the largest lump of coal ever seen in the district. The lump was given for competition by Messrs. G.W. Talbot and Son Ltd., and guessing its weight was conducted under the supervision of Mr. F. Miles (district manager) and Mr. E. Kelsey (local manager). A crane had to be used in order to get the coal from the truck to their lorry. It occupied the whole of the lorry, and was surrounded with miners' lanterns.

Mrs. Lee and Sons, of Denmark Street, gave an iced cake for a lucky ticket competition, the organiser being Mr. Percy Fry.



A novel competition was organised by Messrs. Stewart and Wimbleton, of broad Street. People were invited to estimate the number of parts of a bicycle, which was awarded to the successful competitor.

Mrs. A. Andrews and her lady helpers 2,877 golden apples in connection with the 1935 carnival, and this competition again proved to be very popular. Messrs. C.H. Smith, of Friday Street, Henley, presented the paper bags for the event.

#### EVENTS FOR THE CHILDREN

The children had a splendid morning's fun. Girls from eleven to fourteen had a tennis ball competition, and those under eleven participated in a skipping competition. Younger boys had great difficulty in making attempts to eat treacle buns, for they found there were as many wasps as buns, but the wasps did not retard their eagerness. The older boys joined in a seek, find and answer race, which was very amusing.

The bandsmen of the Gordon Boys' Home, Woking, were warmly received as they took their places on the stage in the Market Place. The band, which is a valuable "nursery" for Army bands, was conducted by Mr. G.D. Herniman, L.R.A.M. (bandmaster), and gave frequent selections during the day.

Children found in the Punch and Judy show, given by Messrs. James Portland, an amusing and interesting diversion.

Soon after 11 a.m. the first balloons shot into the air in a south-easterly direction. They had been released by the Mayor and his party. An effort was made to beat the result of the 1935 carnival, when 442 balloons were released, and the winning balloon travelled to Partington, near Hull. Mr. Norman C. Lawrence and helpers supervised the releasing of balloons.

Mr. George Mead, resident manager of Messrs. Toomer, R and Co., Ltd., organised and was in charge of guessing the weight of a lorry load of coal.

A full week's supply of bread was offered as a prize in a competition organised by Mr. A.C. Hambleton, The Market Place.

Lucky dips proved most popular with the revellers, and Mrs. L. Ralph, who had charge of the arrangements, and her helpers were kept extremely active.

The fun was kept at a high pitch, when, from the stage, surrounded by children, the Mayor threw oranges into the crowd, who scrambled for them.

#### CROWNING OF THE QUEEN

##### THE MAYOR'S WARM TRIBUTE

Just before two o'clock, a car carrying the Carnival Queen, preceded by a police car as an escort, arrived at the Market Place. Surmounting the car was a floral crown. The crowd watched eagerly as Miss Grist was assisted from her car. She was welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress, who had been awaiting her arrival on the stage. The Mayoress was presented with a bouquet of red carnations and maidenhair fern, and Miss Grist received one composed of pink carnations and maidenhair fern. She looked radiantly happy, and smiled to the large crowd. Attired in a white moiré taffeta gown, cut on Elizabethan style, with a Medici collar, Miss Grist made a charming Queen. Her attendants, Misses Mary Smith, Edna Worrall, Ena Purchase and Jean Weight, were becomingly dressed in lavender moiré taffeta, and Juliet caps.

The Mayor said it was his pleasing duty to welcome to the town the Carnival Queen for 1937. "We have always been very fortunate in Wokingham with our Carnival Queens," Alderman Barrett continued, "and I know you will agree with me that today we are still very fortunate in having such a Carnival Queen and her attendants. If I may say so, I think she makes a beautiful and dignified Queen, and she is fortunate in her attendants. We wish our Carnival Queen a happy and successful reign, and I know you will do all you can to make it a happy one for her and her attendants."

The Mayoress then took the crown from off a mauve cushion, the Queen knelt down and Mrs. Barrett performed the ceremony in a graceful manner.

Speaking through a microphone, Miss Grist replied, "I wish to thank you very much for your warm reception. I hope you will have a very happy day, and do not forget that the carnival funds require your generous gifts."

#### HON. MRS. CORFIELD'S TELEGRAM

The Mayor said he had received a telegram from the Hon. Mrs. Corfield, who is on holiday in Scotland. It read, "I wish you and your committee a successful and happy carnival tomorrow and good weather."

After the ceremony, the Queen and her attendants chatted with the Mayor and Mayoress. To a fanfare of music they re-entered the car amid cheers, and drove though Denmark Street to the Carnival Field. Here the Carnival Queen and her attendants, the Mayor and Mayoress were received by Mr. Whittle, and the Mayor declared Messrs. Whittle monster fun-fair open. Together with the Gordon Boys' Band, who had provided music during the route, they toured the fair and rode on various roundabouts.

#### DIDCOT WIN FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST

Considerable interest was taken in the inter-fire brigade competition, which took place on the Carnival Field in the afternoon. It is over 25 years ago that Wokingham was favoured with such a competition. Six teams competed, and the times registered were very good. The officials were: Judges, Messrs. C.A. Edwards (Sonning), F.J. Jordan (Bracknell), and W.B. Martin (Wokingham); starter, Second Officer Batchford (Reading); steward, Mr. E. Hawkins (Wokingham); timekeeper, Mr. E. Farr (Maidenhead). The competition was organised by the Wokingham Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer W.B. Martin and Mr. C.W. Rawlings (secretary).

Brigades were required to couple three lengths of hose and hit a target.

The Harry Vincent Challenge Cup, valued at a hundred guineas, was won by Didcot with the extraordinary good time of 34  $\frac{3}{5}$  secs. Goring (the holders) were second with 35  $\frac{2}{5}$  secs. The other places were: 3, Wargrave, 36  $\frac{2}{5}$  secs.; 4, Pressed Steel Works, 37  $\frac{4}{5}$  secs; 5, Windsor, 39  $\frac{3}{5}$  secs.; Pangbourne, 40  $\frac{1}{5}$  secs.

In the Cricket Field a display and demonstration was given by members of the Berkshire branches of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, under the directions of Mrs. A.H. Finch (county organiser). Interspersed with the display was an exhibition of dancing by Miss Sybil Bennett, of the Sybil School of Dancing, Maidenhead.

Over 250 children paraded for the children's fancy dress competitions in the cricket field. Their costumes were judged by Dr. E. Ward, Mrs. Croker, Mrs. G.A. Cheeseman, Mrs. Ratcliffe, Mrs. E.J. Braby, Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Chakirian, who had as stewards Mrs. Wimbleton and her helpers. The Carnival Queen presented the prizes to the children at the conclusion of the parade.

#### A RECORD PROCESSION STRIKING FEATURES

People were very early in securing good positions in the streets for the carnival procession, in which there was an increase of 14 entries on the 1935 carnival. The entry was a record, and the procession will not be forgotten for some time. It took between a quarter and half an hour to pass at various points, and was about a mile and a half in length.

Heading the procession was a car, decorated in Coronation colours, driven by Councillor G.C. Wilson, and in which were seated the Mayor and Mayoress. Following them was the Carnival Queen and her retinue in a coach which had been

artistically designed by Mr. Dick Giles, of Wokingham. The coach was built on rather unusual lines, and the raised throne was backed with a bat-like rear. The coach was drawn by two magnificent and well-groomed Suffolk horses, lent by Mr. Henry Bowyer. Incidentally, they were awarded a prize for the best decorated horses, because of their ornamentations arranged to give a colourful display of Coronation colours. It is impossible to give a full description of all the vehicles, and the costumes of other entrants., but a reporter who inspected the procession before it commenced its journey through the town, writes his impressions of the most striking entries. Several Wokingham children combined to give a mounted tableau of a fairy queen, together with her retinue and herald, depicted in a brilliant setting of evergreens. The Wokingham St. John Ambulance Brigade had rather a good show with one of their members sitting on a donkey, bound up after a supposed accident. It gave an idea of the work the brigade do as “Good Samaritans,” the title of their entry, which won a prize. Just like “the good old days” was the hansom cab of the gay “nineties” which had received a good polishing before leaving the coach-house. Fearsome-looking pirates, who in everyday life are scholars at Palmer School, were on board the galley, “Dragon of the Sea.” Their craft was made by the teachers, and scholars, and the girls were responsible for the making of costumes.

Wokingham Peace Pledge Group had an interesting tableau denouncing war.

Of course, Will Hay and his boys could not be forgotten. They were present in a limited space, but room was given for scholastic duties and recreation—card-playing.

#### THOSE FLOWER BASKETS

In the pedestrian section were several outstanding characters. Members of Wokingham Corporation might have gained food for thought from the gentleman on stilts, who claimed to be the Corporation gardener and lamplighter. Writing of gardens and lamps, one entrant had a clever skit on the hanging baskets of Wokingham. He pushed through the streets a portable lamp-post complete with flower baskets, just like those in broad Street, and with him he had his stepladder and watering can, all ready for the job of tending the geraniums.

Humpty-Dumpty sitting on top of the wall caused much amusement among the young and old, particularly the former. To the lilting music of accordion and guitar troped a party of Hawaiian girls and presumably their boy friends. It was a great pity that they had no rivals in their section.

Attired as chief of the Tini Zulu tribe was another prize-winner, looking really tough, and beside him were a pair of Red Indians with their war paint—a colourful combination. Two other pedestrians, dressed as a scarecrow and traffic lights respectively, deserved their places in the prize list, as did the charming highwayman. Another entrant had a really good get-up as a tramp.

Wokingham seems to have been invaded by several pearly kings, for apart from one who assisted in the “rag” with a barrel organ, were two others who took part in the procession with their laden coster barrow. “O.K. for Sound” was a very apt inscription on the 1902 Peugeot car driven by Mr. P. Goodey, of Twyford. The vehicle, which goes exceedingly well, figured in the play, “Wild Violets,” at Drury Lane, and in the A.A. film, “This Motoring.”

The carpenter’s job has changed out of all knowledge during the last hundred years, according to the interesting trade exhibit of Mr. D.A. Slyfield, of Bracknell. On one side of the lorry could be seen bearded gentlemen in queer hats and swallowtail coats doing the work with axes, and beside them were the modern methods of the circular saw. A familiar entrant at several south of England carnivals is Mr. W.G. Boyce, of Odiham, who travelled all the way to Wokingham in order to win a prize, and, of

course, show people his wonderful illustration of how the old woman and her tiresome children lived in the shoe, of fairy-tale fame. His enterprise was deservedly rewarded. The Embrook Women's Institute had a tableau depicting women through the ages, and one could recognise Brittanica, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Amy Johnson, Elizabeth Fry, Dorothy Round, Grace Darling, Christobel Pankhurst and the Women's Institute member.

#### TOMMY FARR AND JOE LOUIS

Revellers who had forgotten that last week there was a world's title at stake in the boxing ring, had the painful reminder given by two youngsters, one as Joe Louis, and the other as Tommy Farr, at a Yankee stadium in New York. A tableau that earned its place in the prize list was that arranged by Mr. A.T. Cox, of Binfield, entitled "Binfield Belles," complete with pierrots and imaginary seaside.

The old-world spirit was captured in a scene in an old-time bar of a village inn, complete with a cheery crowd of country folk. Another well-designed entry was the L.N.E.R. Coronation express engine, "Dominion of Canada," which had been thoughtfully constructed.

The changes in bathing attire during the last hundred years gave scope to the staff of Wokingham Poor Law Institution, who staged a tableau recalling the death of Mrs. Grundy. Another enterprising prize-winner succeeded in bringing the Nine-Mile-Ride, or part of it, into Wokingham, and right well he deserved his prize. Originality scored easily. His car was covered with ferns and other plants which grew on the Ride.

A local brick firm served a double purpose. They persuaded people to be bricks and give generously, and, at the same time, showed how bricks were made. A pleasure yacht, named "Sale and Sun," was an attractive exhibit. Sammy, the Bracknell trotter, caused some amusement, but its antics did not perturb the youthful driver. An aviary full of budgerigars, and canaries in cages, constituted the instructive trade exhibit staged by Messrs. Henry Bowyer and Son.

Also in the procession were the St. Sebastian's Parish Band, Sandhurst Silver Prize Band, Spring Gardens Prize Band, Waltham St. Lawrence Prize Band, Wokingham Town and British Legion Band, and the Gordon Boys' Band. Wokingham Fire Brigade were represented by two engines (including the new Leyland), and other brigades in the procession were Twyford, Didcot, Sonning, Hartley Wintney, Windlesham, Goring, Bracknell, Wargrave, and Pangbourne, together with an engine loaned by the Leyland Motor Co., for the contest in the afternoon.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 1937

#### ALL SAINTS PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Monday the Patronal Festival at All saints' was celebrated by a number of celebrations of Holy Communion. Evensong included Te Deum and procession, and the special preacher was the Rev. P.J. Hepburn Scott, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham.

#### ST PAUL'S JUMBLE SALE

On Wednesday the annual jumble sale, in aid of St. Paul's Parish Funds, was held. Stalls were as under:--Men's wear: Mrs. Newberry and Miss Deane. Women's dresses, etc.: Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Hyde-Parker. Hats: Miss E. Deane. Fancy: Miss A.C. Hill and helper. Teas: Mrs. Grant, Miss Grant, Mrs. Eamer and Mrs. Munday. Hardware: Mr. E. Eamer. Mrs Hyde-Parker arranged the sale. The rector looked in during the proceedings.

### BAZAAR FOR ST. MARTIN'S HOME

In aid of the funds of St. Martin's Home, Sturges Road, where convalescent children from London are received, a bazaar was held on Saturday at the Convent, Easthampstead Road. The Mother Superior and sisters, with the help of the Convent School pupils, carried out the programme. There were various stalls, and tea was also provided. A feature was a programme carried out by pupils of the school, which introduced a play, "The Bad Temper Bureau." The Rev. J. Connolly thanked patrons for their attendance and help.

### CONSTITUENCY WHIST DRIVE

The Wokingham branch of the South Berks Conservative Association held their qualifying whist drive for the divisional whist championship on Thursday last week in the Wokingham Club. The M.C. was Mr. Frank Moles. The following qualified to take part in the final drive:--Ladies: 1, Mrs. Mead; 2, Miss K. Lindley; 3, Mrs. Winfield; 4, Mrs. Street; 5, Miss Scragg; 6, Mrs. Carter; 7, Mrs. Herbert; 8, Mrs. Garrett, Reserves: Mrs. White, Mrs. Steedon, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. K. Smith. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Boss; 2, Dr. Ward; 3, Mr. R.L. Arthur; 4, Mr. A. Russell; 5, Mr. E. Andrews; 6, Mr. Woolliams; 7, Mrs. Thorne, 8, Miss Jones. Reserves: Mrs. Plumridge, Mr. Knott, Mr. S. Collins and Mr. Bennett.

### WOMEN'S MEETING

The 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Wokingham Women's Meeting was celebrated on Sunday at the Methodist Church, Rose Street. The preacher was the resident minister, the Rev. W.H. Brackenbury. A special meeting was held in the afternoon when Mrs. Edgar Newbery was chairman and the speaker was Mrs. M Bird, of Windsor. Miss D.M. Drake, of Reading, was the soloist. On Tuesday, in the Town Hall, the annual concert was held. The Mayor of Wokingham Alderman F.J. Barrett, presided, and the Mayoress was also present. Mr. Harrison Slater (of Derby) was in excellent form with his dramatic recitals and impersonations, and well-deserved applause marked the conclusion of his recital. Miss A.G. Lake and Mr. L.E. Lake (of Slough) contributed excellent vocal items. Miss M. Webb was the accompanist. Mr R.C. Wright, of Reading, mystified with his conjuring.

### UNION CINEMA, RITZ

Bette Davis, supported by George Brent, appears in "The Golden Arrow," showing today. The supporting film is "Clarence." On Monday, Ritz patrons will be stirred by the great film, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." This film took 18 months to plan and produce, and has been described as the picture of the year. Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland head a grand cast of British players. The story concerns two brothers who are in love with the same girl. She is betrothed to one and admires his courage, but her heart is really with the other. Not until the eve of the Crimea is the problem solved. In the distinguished cast are: Henry Stephenson, Nigel Bruce, Donald Crisp, David Niven, C. Henry Gordon and G.P. Huntley. For the latter part of the week "Hideaway Girl" is being shown. It is a delightful comedy of mistaken identity, with a bride wrongly suspected as a criminal. The supporting film is "Let Them Live."

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

St. PAUL'S BAZAAR

The receipts at St. Paul's Church bazaar were close upon £200—a very successful result. There are a few accounts to be settled.

#### THE TOWN HALL CLOCK

After a silence and rest for some weeks, for repairs and reconditioning, the Town Hall clock on Thursday, at mid-day recommenced to function.

#### ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS CLUB

The annual share-out took place on Thursday at the Church House. The chairman of the committee and treasurer, the Rev. G. Kenworthy (rector), sent apologies for unavoidable absence. The members of the committee, Messrs. W.J. Brooks, F. Lindsay, W. Loader, A. Buckle, P. House, W. Martin and F. Moles (hon. secretary), arranged the evening's distribution. The statement of accounts showed total receipts to be £2,038 6s. 11d., and £2013 13s. 9d. was distributed to 1,595 members at £1 5s. 3d. each.

#### CONFIRMATION AT ST. PAUL'S

On Thursday the Bishop of Buckingham performed the rite of Confirmation at St. Paul's Church. The Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow acted as Bishop's Chaplain. The candidates numbered 61 in all, viz.: From St. Paul's. 9 girls, 7 boys. All Saints, 10 girls, 10 boys; Luckley, 8 girls; St. Sebastian's, 4 girls, 1 boy; Barkham, 5 girls, 3 boys. Two married couples completed the total of 61. The respective clergy attended their own candidates. Mr. A. Yould, R.C.M. (hon.), was at the organ. In his address, his lordship spoke of the seriousness of the day to the candidates.

#### THE RITZ

"The Last of Mrs. Cheyney," showing today, features William Powell, Joan Crawford and Robert Montgomery in the screen version of Frederick Lonsdale's play. The supporting film is "The Gap."

The Ritz Chums' Club, held every Saturday morning, will see "The Great Barrier" today. On Monday, "San Quentin," the chief feature, is a swiftly-moving melodrama, dealing with the lives of prisoners in this famous penitentiary. Many scenes were taken in a San Francisco night club, where Ann Sheridan, who supplies the romance, is a singer, who falls in love with Pat O'Brian, an ex-army officer just appointed captain of the yard at San Francisco. The cast also included Humphrey Bogart, Barton MacLane, Joseph Sawyer and Veda Ann Borg. "Penrod and Sam" is the second feature. On Thursday "pluck of the Irish," featuring James Cagney and Mae Clarke, is being screened. Johnny Cave (Cagney), a two-fisted young man, becomes chief deputy of the department of weights and measures. He is "advised" to join in with a gang operating a short-weight racket, but ignores their threats, and, in spite of brutal intimidation, discovers the identity of the secret leader of the gang. Cagney eventually exposes and arrests the culprit, thereby earning promotion and Janet's (Mae Clarke) approbation. The supporting film is "Hats Off."

#### THE CARNIVAL: FINAL EFFORT

In spite of the inclement weather, good numbers attended the final event of the Wokingham 1937 Carnival at The Convent of the Presentation on Monday, where, by permission of the Reverend Mother Superior, a gymnastic and dancing display was presented by the scholars. Each item of the programme was much appreciated, and the

production reflects great credit upon Miss Joan Morton, who had been responsible for the training of the scholars. Amongst the audience were: the Mayor and Mayoress and family, the carnival president, Alderman F.J. Barrett, and Mrs. Barrett and family, Councillor Miss Wescott, Father Connolly, etc. The Mayoress was presented with a bouquet by the head scholar. The president proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Mother for her kind help and practical interest, and this was supported by the Mayor. The external arrangements were in the hands of the carnival honorary secretary, Councillor D. Goddard. Over £4 was realised.

1938

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

“WOKINGHAM”

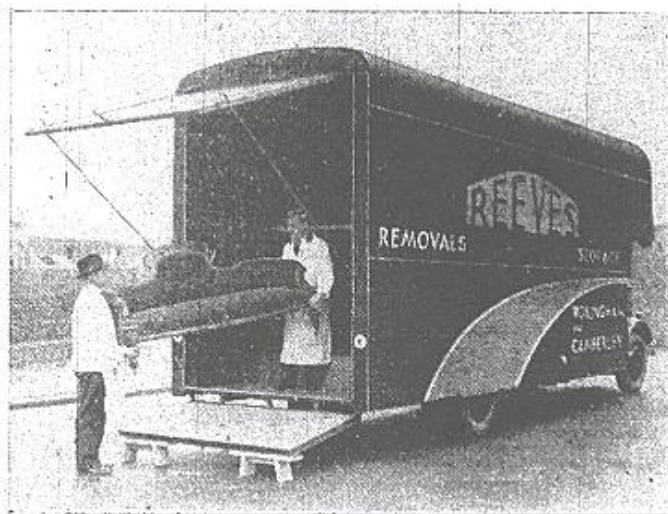
A thoroughfare by old and red buildings flanked  
 (Old tried and solid structures free from sham),  
 A path above a rising roadway banked  
 --That’s Wokingham!

A row of ancient dwellings gay with paint  
 Whose bright blue doors ‘twere sacrilege to slam,  
 An inn with courtyard full of corners quaint  
 --That’s Wokingham!

A little town with church on either end,  
 A stream where once (‘tis said) the crayfish swam,  
 And narrow streets, that twist and dodge and bend,  
 --That’s Wokingham!

And if, bewildered by life’s rush, my mind  
 With pleasant, peaceful thoughts I’d crowd and cram,  
 Such peace, such pleasantness, such thoughts, I’d find,  
 --At Wokingham!

S. E. Collins.



Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March

A UNIQUE PANTECHNICON, designed and made by Messrs. Perkins Brothers, Wokingham, for E. W. Reeves and Co., of Wokingham. A special tailboard enables furniture to be carried straight into the van: a canopy protects furniture and loaders. Despite its vast capacity (4,100 c. ft.) the pantechnicon can travel at a legal speed of 30 miles per hour.

The local Labour Party held a social at the British Legion Hall on Saturday. Mr. Gibson was M.C., Mrs. Bird (Bracknell), Mr. Wilkinson (Hurst), and Mrs. Mattingley and Mr. F. Graves contributed to the programme. There were various competitions, and the ladies' committee (Mrs. J. Gibson, Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Smith and Miss Trowbridge) supervised the catering.

#### COTTAGE FIRE

At 3.45 p.m. on Saturday Wokingham Fire Brigade received a call to three cottages at Forest Road, near the school. On arrival they found the roof of the centre cottage was alight, due probably to overheating from the chimney. The brigade, under Second Officer E. Hawkins, were able to prevent what might have been a serious outbreak, and after two hours were able to leave. The cottages belong to Mr. R.H.R. Palmer. The large fire escape ladder of the new engine proved most useful as it stretched in a long span from the road to the top of the affected roof, enabling the firemen to deal at once with the outbreak at its source.

#### TALK OF SOUTH AFRICA

At the branch meeting of the British Legion (women's section) on Wednesday, Mrs. P.G. Murrey (chairman) presided, and was supported by Mrs. Edgar Earnbart (hon. secretary) and the speaker (Miss M. Fedden). The chairman referred to the satisfactory progress of the branch, and noted the value of honorary members, who in the branch, did a great deal of good. The Purse Fund, in preparation for April 27<sup>th</sup>, was growing towards the £5 required, it was revealed. Miss Fedden lectured on "My travels in South Africa." A vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Miss Young, and carried with acclamation. Prior to the usual tea being served, Mrs. Petersen (28<sup>th</sup> Berks V.A.D.) gave a talk on air raid precautions, with reference to the Mayor's circular letter.

#### THE RITZ

"Exclusive," featuring Charles Ruggles and Lloyd Nolan, is showing today (Saturday). The supporting film is "Circus Girl," a drama of the "Big Top," starring Bob Livingstone and June Travis. On Monday, the spectacular musical film, "Let's Make a Night of It," is being screened. Buddy Rogers, June Clyde, Fred Emery and Iris Hoey are the leading players, whilst in addition, there are Claire Luce, Brian Michie, Afrique, Dan Donovan, and a host of screen and radio stars. Irene Dunne and Randolph Scott head the cast in "High, Wide and Handsome," which is the chief film showing at the latter part of the week. It is a spectacular melodrama with, music, and the story concerns the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania. Also in the cast are such favourites as Dorothy Lamour and Charles Bickford.

#### WOKINGHAM AND AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Wokingham is going right ahead with the scheme for air raid precautions and every householder has received the Mayor's letter and enrolment form.

The Mayor has been anxious to impress upon everyone that it is far better to complete the form and not be required than to fail to send in the form and find that they were wanted. Everyone is urged to offer their services as the number and kind of volunteers is bound to vary and increase as time goes on and the record of volunteers will be a most valuable start.

Every volunteer will be invited to attend a meeting within a few days of the completion of the lists and the County Officer (Major Paget) will attend. This meeting



will be called to give fullest information to everybody and enable every volunteer to ask questions.

The various classes will be formed at once and arrangements are now well in hand to ensure that instruction is given and the requirements of each section are met. The scheme will then be well in hand and will be completed with the least possible delay in such a way that Wokingham will be in possession of an organisation of which she will be very proud and feel far more secure should the occasion arise to put these measures into operation. In addition to the instruction every volunteer accepted will have a booklet clearly defining his or her work.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May

#### GAS-PROOF ROOM ON VIEW

The demonstration room recently opened for public inspection and instruction at Linfield House, 18, Broad Street, was arranged under the supervision of Dr. E.F. Smith (qualified A.R.P. instructor), the details having been carried out by the 28 Berks V.A.D. (Mrs. Beale and Miss Finch), and Supt. T. Sadler, St. John Ambulance Association. Although visited by many interested residents, the attendances should have been larger.

#### AUCTION SALE

At the Rose Hotel, Wokingham, on Tuesday, Messrs. Nicholas, of Friar Street, Reading, conducted an auction sale of land on the Oakfield Estate, Barkham Road, Wokingham, two of the ten lots being sold. One was 220 ft. of building land with a frontage to Molly Millars Lane, and realised £230. The other of accommodation meadow land of 4½ acres, also with a frontage to Molly Millars Lane, realised £200.

#### RED CROSS FLAG DAY

The Red Cross Flag Day, held in the district on Saturday, resulted in £45 19s. 1d. being raised, which was augmented by a further £2 10s. in donations. The area included Wokingham, Bearwood, Winnersh and Finchampstead. Admiral J.B. Eustace is the district secretary, and Mrs. Howard Palmer and Mrs. Oliver Young represent different areas. Fifty per cent of the subscribed amount is allocated to the nursing organisations within the contributory area.

#### REV. W.H. BRACKENBURY LEAVING

The Rev. W.H. Brackenbury, resident Methodist minister for the past 18 months, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday evening, as he has been appointed to Bolton, Lancashire, to fill the place of the Methodist minister there, who has had a breakdown. There are four large churches in the district which will be under Mr. Brackenbury's supervision. The Rev. W.H. Brackenbury has done good and faithful work during his short stay in Wokingham.

#### DEATH OF MRS. W.T. MARTIN

Widespread sympathy is felt for Alderman W.T. Martin in the death of his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Emma Martin, which occurred on Tuesday at a Reading nursing home. She had been ailing for some time and passed away at the age of 66.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1892, at the Baptist Chapel, Wokingham. Mr. Martin started his business at the age of 16, and his wife-to-be, while still at school, was his constant and ready helper. In his public career and activities she was his inspiration. In the four years of his Mayoralty of Wokingham,

1907, 1912, 1913 and 1920, Mrs. Martin won golden opinions as social hostess. Quiet and unobtrusive, from her writing desk she was the working power behind the scenes in the 14 years' efforts of the family on behalf of the Wokingham Clinic, during which time she arranged and brought to success a long series of efforts for that institution.

During the war Mrs. Martin's care was for the children, for whom three times weekly she ran soup-kitchens. This and much kind thought was given to the soldiers billeted in the district, were at her own initiative.

In municipal matters, one of her treasured possessions was a spade, inscribed: "This spade was used by Mrs. W.T. Martin as Mayoress to cut the first sod in the Borough Housing Scheme, July 1920." Another spade recorded that Mrs. Martin "planted a tree and gave a seat round it in the New Recreation Ground, Barkham Road." The tree was given by a friend.

Very many patrons of the swimming pool will remember their talks with Mrs. Martin.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Martin leaves her son, Mr. Cathrow Martin, and her daughter, Mrs. Edna Girdler, to mourn her loss.

The funeral will be at St. Paul's, Wokingham, today (Saturday), at 2.30 p.m.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June

#### FILM STARS AT WOKINGHAM

Garden Party At Glebelands

#### THE CINEMA IN THE EARLY DAYS

A garden party which, in the words of the organisers, was designed to "show Glebelands to the subscribers," was held on Saturday at this charming Wokingham country house, now the convalescent and rest home of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund. It will be remembered that Sir William Jury, a resident of Reading and president of the fund, bought Glebelands for this purpose two years ago.

Miss Gracie Fields did not attend, contrary to expectation, but, other stars present were Gene Gerrard, the comedian, Gibb McLaughlin, Graham Moffat and Moore Marriott—in the garb they wore in Will Hay's "Oh, Mr. Porter," Binkie Stuart, the British Shirley Temple, and Joan Gardner.

Among those present were: the Mayor and Mayoress of Wokingham (Councillor and Mrs. F.S. Perkins), the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (Councillor and Mrs. E.E. Langston) Sir William Jury, Lieut.-Col A.C. Bromhead (trustee) and Mr. R.C. Bromhead (chairman).

Mr. R.C.O. Viveash, secretary to the fund, told a representative of this paper, "Glebelands is steadily fulfilling the function for which it was donated by Sir William Jury, and the number of permanent resident guests is steadily growing. It is not intended by the Fund Council that the general relief that is extended in response to various appeals from different parts of the country should be curtailed through the upkeep of Glebelands, which makes the support of the Cinematograph industry all the more essential.

Glebelands costs nearly£5,000 to keep up, and last year the fund expended generally—in addition to Glebelands—about £10,000. We have over 100 pensioners depending upon the fund, some of them pioneers of the industry, and others incapacitated by sickness or old age, as well as widows and children. There are people here who helped build the technique of the industry 40 years ago".

A programme of sports was carried through during the afternoon, and there were good entries, especially in the ladies' events. A number of employees of various film

companies took part, such as Paramount, County Cinemas and National Screen Services Ltd.

#### A Veteran's Collapse

One elderly man collapsed in the veteran's race after running only a few yards. He was all right after a rest, however, and the ambulance men had nothing to do. The veterans of the 1903 Society—those who have been members of the fund since it was formed in that year—had a race on their own, and this was won by Mr. C.W. Perry.

Mr. T.A. Welsh, appeals organiser to the fund, is one of the 'pioneers of the industry who is taking a hand in the work of Glebelands and of the fund generally. He is appeals organiser to the Benevolent Fund. Snatching a brief interval from his work as a sports official, he mentioned something of the work of the early days when he was associated with Colonel Bromhead—a trustee of the fund, with Sir William Jury and Mr. John Maxwell—in Gaumont. At that time the now famous concern was just a branch of a French film agency.

"The cinema in the early days," said Mr. Welsh, "was regarded as a scientific toy, rather than a form of entertainment. It is due to many of the pioneers, who began to realise its value as an entertainment medium, that this great industry of today has evolved.

In those days films were about 60 ft. in length; now, of course, they run into thousands of feet. I was Colonel Bromhead's assistant and then became general manager when Gaumont was made a company.

I left it in 1916 to undertake official Government work in France. After that I formed a film production company, which made 'The Better 'Ole.' I introduced Betty Balfour to the screen—she became one of the foremost names in this country.

Later I was co-producer of 'Journey's End' with Michael Balcon, now of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 'The Good Companions,' and other films.

The cinema is certainly the most popular entertainment in the world—it is, in a way, a sort of safety valve, a national safety valve, in times of crisis. It is due to the generosity of Sir William Jury that this beautiful place is devoted to the work of the fund, and provides a home of rest for those who are in need of convalescence, or who are getting on in years."

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July

#### A MOCK AIR RAID

An unexpected test for the annual inspection of the 28<sup>th</sup> Berks V.A.D.—in the form of a mock air raid—took place at Wokingham on Wednesday. The inspecting officer for the most comprehensive test was Lieut.-Col. Dunbar, and the proceedings were watched by a large crowd. The V.A.D.'s were under the command of Miss Cornish (commandant), Scouts and other lads represented the casualties.

The Mayor (Councillor F. Stanley Perkins) and Mayoress were present, and others included Sir. Archibald Campbell (Berks. County A.R.P. control officer), Miss Waltham (county secretary), Mrs. Harman (county assistant secretary, British Red Cross), Dr. Richmond (county medical officer of health), Admiral J.B. Eustace (chairman Wokingham Borough A.R.P. Committee, and Hon. secretary, Wokingham Clinic), Dr. Ward.

The clinic rooms had been fitted as a gas-proof first aid and hospital station. The "victims" were given first aid and then placed on stretchers and carried by the V.A.D.'s to the station.

At the close Colonel Dunbar said: "In the time I have had to see you working, I have found you extraordinary smart. I tried on you several test questions and I had got the

right answer in each case. I think your gas attack was very well planned, and I was surprised to see the way in which you handled stretchers. You appear to have some really good idea of de-contamination, and I think you are the best I have seen now for some time.”

Sir Archibald Campbell mentioned them as the very best detachments in Berkshire. The detachment had achieved very many successes, and all were doing their best to maintain that tradition. He knew the work of their clinic and how the centre was appreciated in that part of the county, and had conferred great benefits upon the people of the town. He asked them to consider seriously whether they could not all of them become mobile members of the detachments, as great demands might be made upon him for the county. He spoke of the advantage of their taking up training in military hospitals.

On the same day in Wokingham there was a demonstration of a public address unit mounted on a small motor-cycle, the first experiment of that kind ever made. Having only three components-microphone, transformer and speaker-the unit is worked from an ordinary six-volt accumulator, and it can be used either when the motor-cycle is stationary or when travelling at from 15 to 20 miles per hour.

The man responsible for the demonstration was Mr. John Goswell, electrical engineer, of Waterloo Road, Wokingham. He has fitted the speaker on to the handlebars of the machine. The transformer is clamped unobtrusively to the frame, close to the accumulator, and the microphone hangs by a loop around his neck. The range of the speaker is about a quarter of a mile by day and nearly half a mile at night. Mr. Goswell has spent a good deal of time and money in perfecting this apparatus for use on a motor-cycle, and he thinks it will be invaluable for A.R.P. work. He will submit it to the police and A.R.P. organisation in the district for an exhaustive test in the near future.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

#### WOKINGHAM PREPARES Distribution Of Respirators

The organisation set up for the distribution of gas marks in the Wokingham area has proved fully equal to the task suddenly imposed on it by the swift turn of events this week. So well have wardens conducted their house-to-house visits that almost everyone in the borough has already been measured for masks. Distribution started on Tuesday, and, for those people who had not been measured by then, an assembly room for fitting was set up next to the Post Office.

Special enquires were made by a representative of this paper as to the possibility of public shelters being constructed for use in the event of air attack. The information was given that it had not been decided to provide any such shelters at present, but that the matter was still under consideration. The A.R.P. [Air Raid Protection] Controller for Wokingham is Mr. J.H Titherington, with whom contact can be established at the Town Hall, Wokingham.

#### AN A.R.P. PUBLICATION

“The A.B.C. of A.R.P.” is being published by Jordan and Sons, Limited, 116, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2., on and after October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the price of 6d. By means of diagrams, plans and pictures, this book shows clearly what precautions members of the public can take to protect themselves against attack from the air by high explosive, incendiary bombs, and gas. The instructions, together with the

pictures, make it possible for men and women to obtain quick and inexpensive protection.

In addition, there are included information and pictures of vital interest to A.R.P. personnel. As much of the text matter is presented in tabular form it should be of assistance to those in training. A.R.P. wardens will also find the diagrams of particular interest when imparting information to the public

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

#### SOCIAL AND SALE OF WORK

A sale of work, which realised £10, was held in Forest Road School, Wokingham, on Saturday in aid of the school and the proposed mission church.

#### G.F.S. SALE

The annual sale of the Wokingham branch, Girls Friendly Society, was held on Wednesday in the Club House, in aid of the branch funds, and proved very successful. Stalls included: Household, (Miss Fowler and members of the committee), work (members and associates of G.F.S.), cake stall (cakes made and given), cafeteria (the committee). A silk quilt made by G.F.S. candidates, found a ready purchaser. Miss Grenside and Miss D.E. Smith were the organisers.

#### METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

A meeting in connection with the Methodist Sunday School campaign was held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday, Mr. E.H. Perkins presiding, supported by Dr. H.W. Perkins, M.A., D.D., resident minister. The chairman introduced the Rev. W. Briggs, who said the present generation wanted action. The cinema could be used with advantage in Sunday School work. Mrs. Joy (Whitley Hall) also spoke of her own Sunday School work. Dr. Perkins thanked the speakers.

#### POSTMASTER'S DEPARTURE

The Head Post-master of Wokingham, Mr. J.T. Golothan, who has for the past three years occupied that position, is leaving to take up a similar post at High Wycombe. A social was arranged and held at the Railway Hotel on Saturday. Mr. N.C. Lawrence, assistant district auditor, union of Post Office Workers, was in the chair, and Mr. F.W. Stokes (second in command at Wokingham Post Office) presented Mr. Golothan with a repeating clock as a mark of esteem from the Wokingham and district Post Office staff. Mr. Golothan suitably responded. During the evening a musical programme was given by "Wiffles" Westlake and Mr. E. Thatcher.

#### THE RITZ

Today (Saturday) "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife," co-starring Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert, is the chief attraction. "That Navy Spirit," featuring Lew Ayres and John Howard, is the supporting film. Joan Crawford and Spencer Tracy are co-starred in "Mannequin," the story of two people seeking happiness in trying surroundings, which comes to the Ritz for the early part of the week. "Partners in Crime" is the second feature. "The Hurricane," is showing for the latter part of the week. The high point of the picture is the amazing spectacle which gives the story its climax and its name. "The Hurricane" introduces an important new star in Jon Hall; Dorothy Lamour appears opposite him as the South Sea belle.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### JUMBLE SALE

The sum of £5 was raised at a jumble sale, held in the Methodist Schoolroom in aid of the Sunday School funds.

#### LADIES' HOCKEY

Reading University second eleven journeyed to Wokingham on Saturday, and were defeated 4—1. R. Mellor completed a hat-trick for Wokingham for the second time this season. J Taylor was the other home team scorer.

#### BUILDING ACCIDENT

Harry Cole (19), of Goodchild Road, while at work in Rance's Lane on Saturday, fell from a platform 10 feet up and struck his head on some scaffolding. He was taken unconscious to the Royal Berkshire Hospital where it was found that he had sustained an injured wrist, but his head injuries were not serious.

#### WHIST DRIVE AT GLEBELANDS

During the weekend an invitation whist drive was held at Glebelands. The prize-winners were: Ladies, Mrs. Stokes, Miss A. Scragg, Mrs. R. Cook; Gents, Mr. J. Wright, Mr. P. Thorne, Mr. Deans; also Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Raper, Mr. Exton and Mr. R.A. McLaughlan. The prizes were distributed by Miss F.G. Munro, the matron. The drive was arranged by Capt. F.G. Munro, and Mr. Wood Winstanley was M.C.

#### THE RITZ

"Just Like a Woman," featuring John Lodge and Gertrude Michael, is showing today (Saturday) at the Ritz Cinema, Wokingham. "Telephone Operator," with Judith Allen and Grant Withers, is the picture in support. Caesar Romero, cast as an orchestra leader who, with his companion, Don Ameché, flies across the Atlantic, stars in the musical, "Happy Landing," showing for the early part of next week. "Fugitive Lady," with Evelyn Venable and Reed Hadley, is the supporting film. Laughter will reign at the end of the week at the Ritz where "Merrily We Live" will be screened as the principal film. The supporting film is "Change of Heart," starring Gloria Stuart and Michael Whalen.

#### CARNIVAL DARTS TOURNAMENT

The Wokingham Carnival Darts Tournament, which will be held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, has attracted an entry of 33 teams, which represent 231 players. The entries are as follows: Four teams each from The Plough and the Redan; three teams from The Rising Sun and the Red Lion; two teams each from The Victoria Arms, The Duke's Head, The Three Brewers, The Metropolitan, The White Horse, The Dog and Duck and The Lord Raglan: whilst The Thatched Cottage, The Territorial Club, The Crispin, The Queen's Head and the Wokingham Cricket Club have entered one team. The entry equals the previous record last year. The Victoria Arms are the present holders of the Challenge Cup. The sum of £100 10s. 7d. has been cleared from the past six events.

#### BAZAAR AT THE CONVENT

A sale of work etc. was held at the Convent, Easthamstead Road, on Saturday, in aid of the funds of St. Martin's Home, Sturges Road, for convalescent children from London. The Rev. Mother and the Community of the Presentation made the arrangements. The stalls included needlework, beautifully executed by the Sisters; grocery, handicraft, general, sweets, vegetables, stamps. Teas were arranged for in the various classrooms. A concert by the pupils formed a varied and attractive feature of the afternoon. Songs were sung with sweet tone, balance and feeling, and "The Old Woman in the Shoe" was a delightful sketch by the "transitionals" of the school. The kindergarten percussion band, with their singers, gave a good account of themselves. The dances, "Ballet from Coppelia" and "Blue Danube," were admirably performed by J. Plessis. The abridged play, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," was a realistic and captivating performance. Father Conolly, at the close, thanked the Community for their interest in the London children.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

### WOKINGHAM HEAD MASTER RETIRES

Praise For Mr. H. F. Maidment's Work

#### PRESENTATIONS FROM PAST AND PRESENT PUPILS

A former pupil at Palmer School, Wokingham, drove 200 miles through snow and over frozen roads to attend a ceremony arranged at the school on Wednesday, marking the retirement of Mr. H.F. Maidment, the head master.

Mr. Maidment had been head master for 29 years, and his devotion to his work, unflagging interest in the welfare of the school and valuable encouragement given to every boy and girl who came under his jurisdiction have made him one of Wokingham's most respected figures. There was a very large attendance to see presentations made to him on behalf of managers, subscribers, staff, parents and former pupils.

The Rev. Gordon Kenworthy, chairman of managers, presided at the ceremony, and among those present were: Alderman F.J. Barrett, deputy-mayor—and a former pupil,—Mr. W.F. Herbert, secretary to Berks Education Committee, Mr. F.E. Chapman (correspondent), Alderman and Mrs. J.B. Eustace, Councillor D. Goddard—a former pupil—Councillor Miss D. Wescott, Mr. C. Maisey, head master of Bracknell School, the Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow, Comdr. B.L.H. Greenfield and Mr. Ernest Ward.

Mr. Kenworthy said Mr. Maidment had maintained the great tradition of the school, and, under his devoted and able care, the school had prospered and had established a record of which they were all very proud. Mr. Maidment had completely won the confidence, loyalty and affection of the staff and pupils, the managers and the parents. His retirement was a sad occasion, but it would be no little comfort to Mr. Maidment to be able to look back on a work so conscientiously and splendidly done.

Mr. Herbert said Mr. Maidment had had a career which had been self-sacrificing and one which had meant a great deal to the children who had passed through the school in the past 29 years. The records of the school and the reports which had been issued from time to time by H.M. inspector would testify to the remarkably high standard of the work that had been carried out. Nevertheless it was not merely the standard of work which was so important a feature of Mr. Maidment's control. It was in the wider matters of character formation, development of background and encouragement in the formation of independent judgment that Mr. Maidment had been so successful. Mr. Herbert also referred to those who had been trained on the

staff under Mr. Maidment and of the progress they had subsequently made in their calling.

#### The Presentations

Mr. Chapman said it was originally intended to buy Mr. Maidment a silver tea service, but so many people had asked to be included in the subscription that there was a great deal of money left over. With that surplus they had bought, in addition, a silver tray and other articles, and there would be a framed list of all who had contributed. The presentations from the managers and subscribers were made by Mr. Kenworthy.

Handing to Mr. Maidment a wireless set on behalf of the members of the staff, Mr. Jack Goddard said they had received from the head master all the assistance one could possibly have obtained.

Mr. Hugh Allen, who had driven from Stockport to attend the ceremony, presented Mr. Maidment with an armchair and cheque on behalf of past pupils of the school. He declared that the education given under Mr. Maidment had been of secondary school standard.

Councillor D. Goddard gave Mr. Maidment an album containing 299 names of past pupils and parents who had subscribed to the presentation and he paid a tribute to the value of his work.

Alderman Barrett said he had been a manager of the school for 19 years, and he had always looked on Mr. Maidment as an upright, good living and sound man in every way. He mentioned that the children of the school had made their presentation of a chair to their head master earlier in the day, and he said it was a tribute to the affection in which he was held by the children that the boys and girls had subscribed nearly £6 by their own efforts. That sum was made up entirely of pennies. Alderman Barrett thanked Councillor Goddard and members of the staff who carried out the work of gathering subscriptions from past and present pupils.

Replying, Mr. Maidment spoke of his younger days, and confessed that he originally intended to be an engineer. He changed his mind when, at the request of his father—who was head master of a council school in Sheffield—he took a class for one day. He then decided to become a teacher. “I have had a happy time at Palmer School,” he said, “and nobody could wish to serve under a finer body of managers. From everyone I have had nothing but courtesy and consideration. My staff have been most loyal and willing, and the parents have been kind. I am particularly pleased about my relations with the parents because no head master could get on without their co-operation.”

#### Mr. Maidment's Career

Mr. Maidment was trained at Chatham College. Previous to his appointment at Palmer School he taught at the Sharrow Lane School, Sheffield, under the late Sir James Yoxall, M.P., the well-known educationalist and former secretary of the National Union of Teachers; at the Higher Grade School, Ryde, under Colonel C.D. Crisp, the present chairman of directors of Chelsea Football Club; and at Addison Gardens L.C.C. School, W. Kensington, a school distinguished for its scholastic successes and musical interests.

In his early days, Mr. Maidment was a keen footballer and cricketer, and, as centre forward, he was chosen to play for Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Middlesex. On taking up his appointment at Wokingham, he joined Wokingham Cricket Club, and, for some years acted as treasurer. He was also treasurer for All Saints' Freewill Offering Scheme, and member of the Reading University Court.