



# *Parish News*

## *Hankerton*

### **Death and Funeral of Frances James Bates**

While playing croquet with the Wiltshire coroner Mr A L Forrester, on the lawn at Hankerton Priory, near Malmesbury on Saturday, Mr Francis James Bates, a well-known public figure in the county, complained of feeling unwell and died before a doctor could arrive.

Mr Bates was 68 years of age and a bachelor. Only a month ago he entertained Lord and Lady Suffolk and their tenantry at Hankerton Priory on the occasion of the christening of Viscount Andover. He had been manager of the Suffolk estate for many years.

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The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, who has just recovered from a serious illness, attended the funeral of his estate agent, Mr Francis J Bates, of Hankerton Priory, which took place at Charlton Church, near Malmesbury, yesterday. The rural dean (Rev H Milnes-Walker) and the Rev E Packer (Hankerton) officiated.

Wilts County Council was represented by Mr E G Luce, Colonel W F Fuller, Lord Walter Hervey, and Mr H Selwood.

Malmesbury Rural District Council by Major the Hon H Bampfylde, Mr A Mason Coles, Mr GF S Wilder, Mr G Deadman, Mr M H Chubb, and Mr C Bradshaw.

Mr W Trevelyan (clerk) and Mr G F Angell represented Chippenham Area Guardians' Committee, and Insp Breffitt and Insp Sloper the Wilts Constabulary.

Mr Bates was 67, and amongst his many offices was that of governor of Malmesbury Secondary School.

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