



# *Parish News Oaksey*

## **Newspaper Reports Relating to Temperance**

### **Maine Law Meetings**

During the past week, several meetings on the above subject have been held in the neighbourhood of Malmesbury, at which addresses have been delivered by the Rev H Gale, BCL, rector of Treborough, Somerset.

On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, Mr Gale lectured in the Countess of Suffolk's Schoolroom, Charlton. On the following (Thursday) evening in the Church School room, Lea, and on Friday evening in the Church School Room, Oaksey.

The Rev Gentleman's addresses were in favour of a prohibitory law, and the meetings resulted in the enrolment of a large number of persons as members of the United Kingdom alliance for the suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 17 June 1858**

### **Malmesbury Temperance Society**

On Monday evening last a meeting was held in the New Congregational Schoolroom, Westport, in connexion with the above society, and addressed by working men, whose object was (to quote the handbill) "to demonstrate by actual experience that intoxicating drinks are wholly unnecessary in their varied occupations of life, and that entire abstinence is calculated to elevate and improve the masses of the people"

Mr James Player took the chair. The room was crowded with an audience consisting principally of the working classes, who seemed greatly interested in the proceedings.

The first speaker was an old man named Thomas Brown, of Oaksey, an agricultural labourer, who stated he had been a total abstainer for 25 years, and could recommend it both from principle and practice. Thomas Golding, of Garsdon, stonemason, next recounted his experiences of the drinking customs, and instanced several cases within his own knowledge of the evil results flowing there from, stating also as his decided conviction that a working man could do work better without intoxicating drinks than with them.

Henry Hanks, of Sherston, tailor, then followed with an address, which might have been epitomised as "Mutton v Alcohol," but which was, nevertheless, ably argued. The last speaker was William Pitt, of Garsdon, a sawyer, who urged the moral obligations of the parent and the husband to abstain, and in a pertinent address pleaded the advantages of total abstinence to the working classes generally.

The Chairman then made a few remarks, and a melody having been sung the meeting concluded. The great attention paid by those present must have plainly evinced to the committee the fact that these working men's meetings are the best means of bringing the claims of the temperance cause home to the minds of the working classes, and it must, therefore, have been to them a source of congratulation that their efforts should meet with such success.

**Wiltshire Independent Thursday 23 April 1868**

### **Temperance Fete at Oaksey**

Being held at about an equal distance between Malmesbury and Cirencester, a temperance fete in the village of Oaksey, on Thursday, was largely attended by supporters of the movement from both quarters. The rendezvous was "Little Westwood", a pleasantly situated field, kindly lent for the occasion.

A procession to this spot was organised at the National Schoolroom, where members met the Band of Hope children, and the band of the society from Cirencester provided appropriate music. Visitors partook of tea in the field, but the youngsters returned to the schoolroom, where they were bountifully entertained. Mr Wm Cole, of Cirencester, presided at a public meeting in the evening, at which several prominent speakers in behalf of temperance and temperance, delivered addresses. The day was propitious, and the proceedings most enjoyable to the numerous company present.

**Western Daily Press Saturday 9 August 1873**