

Family Notices



CLEEVE HOUSE, SEEND

*Seend
Obituary*

Mr W Heward Bell

The death took place at Cleeve House, Seend, yesterday of Mr W Howard (sic) Bell, one of the best known public men in Wiltshire. He was 78 years of age, and in 1924 he and Mrs Bell celebrated their golden wedding. Until 1923 Mr Bell was chairman of Nixon's Navigation Colliery Co, Merthyr, but his last link with great business interests was his directorship of the GWR Co. He was a former chairman of the Rhymney Railway Co. Mr Bell was one of Wiltshire's oldest magistrates, being chairman of the Melksham Bench, and was High Sheriff in 1912. He filled many offices of a public nature, among them being the Deputy Lieutenanship, chairmanship of the Melksham Agricultural Society, chairmanship of the Melksham Rural District Council. Membership of the Board of Guardians, membership of the Wilts Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society (in which he held offices of Grand Master and Treasurer), fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries, presidency of the Wilts Archeological Society, and membership of the Newcastle, Cumberland and Westmoreland Societies of Antiquaries.

He was a widely travelled man, having visited practically every part of the world.

The funeral will take place on Friday afternoon.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 22 June 1927

We deeply regret to announce the death which took place on Tuesday of Mr W Heward Bell, of Cleeve House Seend after an illness of some weeks' duration. Mr Bell came of North Country stock. Being the eldest son of the late Mr William Heward Bell, of Pelton House, County Durham, who died in 1881, about the year that Mr Bell came to reside at Seend. In 1924 he and Mrs Bell celebrated their golden wedding. There were four children of the marriage, two son and two daughters. The elder son, Lieut-Col W C Heward Bell, DSO, had a distinguished career in the Great War and was Unionist member for Devizes from 1918 to 1923.... Public man, rider to hounds, philanthropist, helper in every good cause (local or county) Mr Bell had a hundred and one useful activities during the busy years that he resided in Wiltshire, good works which Mrs Bell shared to the full.... During the war he gave himself up unstintingly to Red Cross and other work. The funeral took place yesterday at Seend.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Saturday 25 June 1927