



Warminster & South Wilts Farmers' Club

WARMINSTER AND SOUTH WILTS FARMERS' CLUB

The second anniversary of this Institution was held on Friday last, and was very numerously attended. The stock exhibited was remarkably fine, particularly of sheep, and was even superior to that of last year. Some belonging to Mr Bevan excited great attention, and was particularly alluded to by Mr Biggs in the course of the afternoon. After the business of the day, about 120 gentlemen dined together at the Town-hall – W. Wyndham, jun. esq., in the chair, and T. Goodman, esq. officiating as Vice-chairman. Among the company were Mr H. Biggs, Mr Ravenhill, Mr Clark, Mr Festing, the Rev. DR. Thring, the Rev. A. Fane, the Rev. F. Skurrey, the Rev. Mr. Waugh, the Rev. Mr. Glanville, the Rev. Mr White, Rev. Mr Arnold, Mr S. Mills, Mr J. Davis, Mr Bannister, Mr Everett, Mr W. Brown of Winterbourne, Mr W. Brown of Horton, Mr Fussell, Mr Raxworthy, Mr T. Davis, Mr T. Chandler, Mr C. Bayly of Frome, Mr Chapman, Mr Boor, Mr White, Mr Pocock, Mr Lush, &c. &c.

The dinner was provided by Messrs Down and Low of the London Inn, and a better dinner was never placed on the table. The wines too were thoroughly good, and the dessert was supplied with great liberality; the whole arrangements, indeed, did great credit to Messrs Down and Low.

The labourers dined in an adjoining room; but in the course of the afternoon they came into the Hall, to hear the list of prizes read, and their appearance added not a little to the interest of the proceedings. Among them was an old woman, who had been in the service of Mr Davis of Fisherton-de-la-mere, for a period of *sixty three years*! – being now 73 years old; and it would be difficult to determine which received the greatest pleasure on a prize being awarded to her for her faithful servitude, her present master (Mr J. Davis) or herself. There was an old labourer named Magg, also present, who in a course of years had contributed from his earnings, the sum of one hundred and fifty six pounds towards the relief of his parents! This man of course received a premium, and was justly entitled to it.- Other labourers had bred up 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 children, without receiving any, or if any, very trifling parochial relief. On the names of the successful Candidates for the prizes of Bibles and Prayer-books being called over, they were each presented with a large family Bible and Prayer-book by the Vicar of Warminster, with an earnest entreaty to use the treasure committed to them, and hand it down from generation to generation.- These prizes seemed to give great pleasure to the receivers.

Dinner being over, the toasts of *The Queen - The Prince Albert - The Queen Dowager, and the rest of the Royal Family*, were given in succession from the chair, and drank with due honours.

PREMIUMS AWARDED

For Best Ram.....

Three Men or Women who have contributed most towards the support of their parents

Benjamin Grant, Winterborne Stoke £2

John Mogg, Pitcombe £2

Three Men or Women who have brought up the largest family without parochial relief.

James Gray, Boreham – 6 children £2

Samuel Haines, Boreham – 6 children £2

Four Men or Women who have brought up the largest family with the least parochial relief.

John Taylor, Upton Lovell – 10 children £2

James Eden, Pitcombe – 12 ditto £2

Simon Bond, ditto – 6 ditto £2

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(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 2 September, 1841)

SOUTH WILTS AND WARMINSTER FARMERS' CLUB

The annual Ploughing Match and Sheepshearing of this society took place on Friday last, the 10th inst., on the farm in the occupation of Mr Lush, at Warminster, on which occasion there were present a numerous and highly respectable assemblage of spectators; and it being delightful weather, the field in which the ploughing match was held, presented a pleasing and very animated appearance.

The competition in ploughing was great – 41 ploughs having started; and considering the very dry state of the ground, the work was executed in good style, particularly by the boys under 18 years of age. The following premiums were awarded to the successful candidates, with a donation of 2s. 6d. each to the unsuccessful ones.

FIRST CLASS – (26 Competitors) – For Ploughing half an acre of Land within 2 hours and three quarters in the best manner, with 2 horses, without a driver.

1st premium of £2 to Thos. Neale, servant to Mr John Ingram of Upton Lovell.

2nd do. 30s. to Uriah Steadman, servant to Mr Wm. Sly, Warminster

3rd do. 20s. to Jas. Cooper, servant N. Barton, esq., Corsley

SECOND CLASS – (Competitors) – For Ploughing half an acre of land within three hours and three quarters in the best manner, with 2 oxen, without a driver.

1st premium of £2 to Henry Hole, servant to Mr John Ingram of Upton Lovell.

2nd do. 30s. to Jno. Kick, servant to Mr H. S. Brown, Thoulston

3rd do. 20s. to Jno. King, servant Mr Isaac Pearce, Bishopstrow.

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After the business of the day a large party of gentlemen dined together at the Lamb Inn, Warminster, where a good dinner was provided by Mr Bedford, the landlord. Mr Davis, one of the Secretaries to the Society, presided; supported by Mr T. Chandler, the other Secretary, as Vice. Many loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk, and the greatest harmony and conviviality prevailed throughout the evening.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 16 June, 1842)

SOUTH WILTS AND WARMINSTER FARMERS' CLUB

At the third annual exhibition of this Society, which took place at Warminster on Friday, the 5th inst., the premiums were thus awarded:-

The best ram, of any age,

The following premiums were also awarded :-

To three men or women who have brought up the largest family without parochial relief, 2 £ each, John Payne, servant of John Houghton, Boreham; Jas. Coombs, do. of Wm. Brown, Winterbourn; Ann Williams, do. of A. Heathcote, Rolleston..

To four men or women who have brought up the largest family with the least parochial relief, 2 £ each, Robert Courtnay, recommended by Thos. Williams, Pitcombe (8 children); Abel Alford (10 children), do. Thos. Raxworthy, Upton Lovell; John Brown, Warminster (10 children), do. John Lush, Warminster.

To three shepherds, according to their respective degrees of merit, Robt. Durnford, 2 £ 10 s, 322 lambs from 312 ewes, John Randall, of Deverell; Thos. Badder, 2 £, 445 lambs from 447 ewes, John Ingram, Upton Lovell; Noah Randall, 1 £ 10 s., 449 lambs from 510 ewes, Mr N Barton, Corsley.

The exhibition was choice, and highly deserving commendation, although the attendance, owing to the active engagements of an early harvest, was not so large as might have been desired.

About 150 gentlemen sat down at the Town Hall, to a dinner served by Mr Bedford, of the Lamb Inn, in a style worthy of the occasion. Harry Biggs, Esq., presided as chairman, and T. Goodman, Esq., acted as vice-president. Amongst many others present, we noticed, Messrs John Benett, M.P., T. H. Phipps, John Ravenhill, Yeatman, jun., Alexander Powell, S. Mills, John Clarke, and John Davis, the Rev. Messrs Arthur Fane (Warminster), F, Skurray (Horningsham), G. Arnold (Lord Weymouth's School, Warminster), Gray (Upton Lovell), Wightwick (Codford), Dr Thring (Sutton), &c. After the cloth was removed, "Non nobis, Domine," was given with good effect by Messrs Johnson, Harding and Ingram, of Salisbury, after which the Chairman proposed "The Queen" – drunk with three times three. "The Queen Dowager, Prince Albert, Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family" – three times three.

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John Bleek, Esq., suggested that the very excellent advice offered by the esteemed Member for the county would be far more likely to be impressed upon the minds of his youthful auditors, if enforced by a moderate supply of those accessories to social enjoyment with which the company below stairs were regaled – a proposition which was loudly cheered and speedily carried into effect.

The premiums awarded to the successful candidates amongst the labourers were then announced and distributed, after which their healths were proposed by John Benett, Esq.

Glee, "Merrily we live that Shepherds be."

Mr Mills, of Elston (on behalf of the labourers), returned thanks.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Monday 8 August, 1842)

WARMINSTER AND SOUTH WILTS FARMERS' CLUB

The fourth anniversary of this Institution was held on Friday last. The stock exhibited was remarkably fine, but there was not so much competition for the premiums, as could have been desired. A pen of ewes, belonging to Mr James Harris of Alton Farm, was spoken highly of by the Judges, as were some rams and ram lambs, belonging to Mr W. Brown of Winterborne Stoke. The ram belonging to Mr W. Sainsbury, which obtained the first premium of the Royal Agricultural Society at Derby, was of course generally admired. Among the extra stock of horned cattle were two two-year-old heifers of the Hereford breed, belonging to Mr T. Chandler of Stockton, of very superior quality.

In the afternoon about 120 gentlemen dined together at the Town-hall, the hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., in the chair, supported on his right by the Rev. A. Fane, Mr H. Biggs, Mr Phipps, and Dr. Thring; and on his left by Lord Heytesbury, Mr Benett, Mr C. L. Phipps, and Mr N. Barton. Among the company we also noticed, Mr Joshua Whitaker, Mr Ingram, Mr Maton, Mr W. Brown of Horton, Mr W. Brown of Winterborne Stoke, Mr J. Grant, Mr Chapman of Langford, Mr Sidford, Mr Raxworthy, Mr Milsom, Mr Marsh, Mr Beaven, Mr T. Chandler, Mr Gulliver, Mr L. Maton, Mr S. Neil, Mr Boor of Warminster, Mr Chapman, Mr Pullen, Mr T. Davis, Mr B. Everett, &c. &c. Mr T. Goodman undertook the office of vice president. The dinner was provided by Messrs Down and Lowe of the London Inn, and fully supported their reputation as first-rate caterers. There was also an abundant and a rich dessert; and the wines were excellent.

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PREMIUMS AWARDED:

For length of service with the same master, or with father and son in succession.

To Jas. Howell, sen., for having served 34 years with Mr Jno. Phillips of Chaddenwick £1 10s.

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To Mary Curtis of Pitcombe, for general good character and conduct £1

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To Thomas Sweet of Upton Lovell, ditto £1

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 10 August, 1843)

SOUTH WILTS AND WARMINSTER FARMERS' CLUB

At the fifth annual exhibition of this Society, held yesterday, at Warminster, the various premiums were awarded as follows:-

(Categories judged – Sheep, Cattle, Pigs, extra stock)

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Premiums

1. To three men or women who have brought up the largest family without parochial relief, Andrew Yeodle, of Corsley; James Browns, of Warminster; John Hilliar, of Warminster; and a bounty of 1 £ to Henry Dowdle, of Upton Lovell.

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7. Length of service on the same farm, Sarah Emm, Upton Lovell, 18 years; Maria Payne, Boreham, 24 years; Sarah Wheeler, Winterbourne Stoke, 35 years; Hannah Olding, Alton, Amesbury, 18 years.

8. For character and conduct, Ann Emm, Upton Lovell; Sarah Snook, Maiden Bradley; Elizabeth Wills, Pitcombe, Somerset; Maria Bush, Warminster; Hannah Rixon, Winterbourne.

The dinner, which took place at the Town-hall was served by Mr Bedford, of the Angel, and gave the greatest satisfaction. John Ravenhill, Esq., the Chairman for the past year, presided; and Alexander Powell, Esq., of Hurdcott, was requested to assume the office of the President for the ensuing year.

(*Salisbury and Winchester Journal* – Saturday 24 August, 1844)
