**A**

**Social History**

**Of The**

**Village of Abbotsham**

**1860-1978**

***Section IV 1914 - 1929***

Sincere thanks are given to Mr Clifford Babb for all the time he has given towards the preparation of this study, and to Bideford College for the facilities it has afforded him

**ABBOTSHAM**

Many old parishes and their churches have had their history written by

learned scholars, others by enthusiastic locals, but despite the fact that I do not fall into either category, I have strangely been drawn to the village of Abbotsham, with its beautiful little church of St Helens. On approaching this building an outstanding feature is its very low tower - I wonder whether it was ever surmounted with a spire.

Many a person has visited this lovely little church with its well kept

churchyard, situated in what must be some of the best Devonshire

countryside. To me, the village seems to be always peaceful, people never

seem to hurry, and very little seems to have changed down through the centuries. .

Because of the fact that I am retired and live close to the village, I have been fortunate in being able to research and discover a great deal of information concerning the people who have lived there, how they were employed, and what activities they were involved in during their out of work time. One of the most evident features is that quite naturally people attended their parish church, but also the Baptist Chapel was a very well attended place of worship, with a very enthusiastic congregation.

Although today many of the inhabitants of Abbotsham have come there because of their employment, or have settled there in retirement, this has not

always been the case. Like many other such villages it boasted of quite a

close community, people belonged to the village, and were happy to be there.

I have always considered that every village churchyard can supply a wealth

of information regarding its former parishioners. Old gravestones contained

so very much more detail than those of today. But of course these details

deteriorate with time, especially when situated so close to a wind blown coastline. It is unusual to discover many such epitaphs much older than 300 years old.

I have been fortunate in being able toesearch the old copies of the “Bideford Gazette”, as a result of the diligence of the village correspondents down through the years. Accordingly I have extracted the happenings at Abbotsham, and I believe that the result will give quite a comprehensiveaccount of the day to day lives of the village people.

In addition I have been able to use some extracts from the “Abbotsham Parish Magazine”, which is such a source of valuable information. This

magazine began in 1889, and the Vicar of the parish in 1890 stated, “These

magazines may, in years to come, prove of the greatest interest. They make up in fact a simple history of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past”.

Mike Davy. 8th January 1994.

ABBOTSHAM

News has been received from El Paso, Texas, of the death on January 6th of

Mr Lewis Eyre Sealy Vidai, third son of the late Mr Edward Urch Vidal of

Cornborough. He was entering his house when he was shot, was taken to

hospital, where he died two days later, Mr Vidal was 63 years of age, and

leaves a widow and son.

(February 3rd 1914 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 15th at Homewood, Abbotsham - John Bale aged 59.

(February 17th 1914 - 8G).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The charity known as the Prior (sic) *Poor?*Lands money was distributed in the Schoolroom on Saturday evening last to those residents in the parish entitled to the same.

The Right Rev, the Lord Bishop of Exeter, held a Confirmation Service ¡n the Parish Church of St Helen’s on Wednesday last. There were 29 candidates

- nine from Abbotsham.

(March 10th 1914 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Abbotsham Baptist Sunday School has again won the Challenge Shield

for the Scripture Examination for the fourth time. . Great credit is given to Mr Barry (The Colporteur) and Mr C. Hooper, the Schoolmaster, for the excellent training of children. Eleven scholars sat and all have passed.

(April 7th 1914- BG). ,

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A vote of condolence with Mr Sealy in his illness was passed at the meeting

of clergy and teachers of the Sunday School at Buckland Brewer.

(July 21st 1914- BG).

**DEATH.**On August 19th at Abbotsham, Mary Witheridge aged 70 years.

(August 25th 1914 - BG). :

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Harvest Thanksgiving services in connection with the Parish Church were held on Sunday the 13th, but owing to the serious outbreak of war and so many being called to the front, the parish festivities usually held on the Monday following the Sunday services, consisting of tea, sports and concert have been omitted.

(September 22nd 1914 - BG)

**DEATH OF PREB. R.W. SEALY.**

News was received last week with very deep regret of the death of the Rev.

Prebendary Robert Walpole Sealy, M.A., Vicar of Abbotsham, and for many

years Rural Dean of Hartland. Mr Sealy has for many years thrown himself

heart and soul into public and church work, and his loss will be keenly felt in many directions. He was representative on the Bideford Rural District Council and Board of Guardians. Mr Sealy, who was 61 years of age and the eldest surviving son of the late Mr E.U. Vidal J.P. of Cornborough, had a breakdown of health some months ago. He passed peacefully away at Abbotsham Vicarage on Thursday afternoon. He belonged to an old

Somerset family, long seated at Bridgewater, and reverted to the former

family name in 1898, his father having assumed that of Vidal on succeeding

to the Cornborough estate.

He was Vice Chairman on the Bideford Board of Guardians, a member of the Bideford District Council, Chairman of the Abbotsham Parish Council, Commissioner for Income Tax, Past Patron of theB ideford Hospital, a convinced supporter of the National Service League, and was a member of the Committee of the North Devon Choral Union since 1893. A noted athlete in his day, Mr Sealy was a prominent International football player, playing for England while still a schoolboy at Westminster.

By his first marriage with a daughter of the late Mr T.F. Carter of Liverpool, Preb. Sealy leaves a son, The Rev. W.E. Sealy. By his second marriage with the elder daughter of the late Gen Molesworth R.A. of Kenwith, who survives him, he leaves a son, Lt. E.M.W. Sealy R.E., who recently left for the front, and three daughters. The funeral took place at Abbotsham yesterday, being conducted by the Bishop of Crediton, Archdeacon Trefusis and Rev. Canon Braithwaite of Winchester, brother in law of the deceased. The coffin was borne to the graveside by villagers.

(November 10th 1914 - BG).

**DEATH OF MAJ.GEN. J.E. BOYES.**

Maj. General J.E. Boyes who was a resident in this district for many years,

first at Cornborough, passed away at Menton on the 11th inst. He was 71

years old.

(January 19th 1915 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 28th at Geneva Place, Bideford, Samuel Davey of Abbotsham

aged 80, and on January 31st, Ann his widow, aged 83.

(February 2nd 1915 - BG).  
DEATH OF LT. W.J. KERR.

Lt. William John Kerr of the Cameronians, who died of wounds received at the front, was the eldest son of Capt. James Russell Kerr and Mrs Kerr of

Newnham, Gloucs., and grandson of Mrs Pine Coffin of Kenwith Castle. He

was 24. Mrs Pine Coffin’s three sons are all on active service.

(March 1915- BG).

**BIDEFORD AND TORRIDGE DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.**

The awards of the Scholars Scripture Examination have been received, and

the results include;  
Lower Junior Division - (8-10 yrs) - Annie J. Moase, Florence Jackman, Phyllis B. Moase.

Upper Junior Division - (10-12 yrs) - William Jackman, Edwin C. Moase.

Lower Middle Division - (12-14) - Beatrice Moase.

Upper Middle Division - (14-16 yrs) - William Squire, Frederick Jackman,

Frances Hearn.

All of Abbotsham Baptist Church.  
(April 6th 1915- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**A very interesting lecture on the life and mission work in the Melanesian

Islands was given by the Rev. H.J. Nind in the Schoolroom during the Easter

week.

All interested are cordially invited to a meeting of parishioners to be held in the Schoolroom on May 6th at 8pm to consider a proposal for raising a memorial to the late Vicar, Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy

(April 27th 1915- BG).

**INDUCTION OF NEW VICAR.**

The induction service of the Rev. Canon Kempe as Vicar of the Parish of

Abbotsham took place on Friday evening, and was well attended. The

induction was carried out by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple.

(May 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A wedding was celebrated on Saturday at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham,

between Miss Winifred Glover, daughter of Mrs Glover of the New Inn,

Abbotsham, and Mr Samuel R. Davis, son of Mr F. Davis of Bideford. The

Rev. Canon Kempe (Vicar) was the officiating clergyman. The bride was

given away by her brother, Mr A. Clover. The duties of best man were

carried out by Mr J. Davis, brother of the groom. There were two

bridesmaids - Miss S. Clover, sister of the bride, and Miss R. Davis, sister of the groom.

(May 11th 1915- BC).

**DEATH.**

On July 7th at Abbotsham - John Friendship aged 77 years.

(July 13th 1915- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Private J. Hearn who is slightly wounded, is the only son of Mr and Mrs Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham.

(July 27th 1915- BC).

**BATHING FATALITY.**

At Abbotsham Court on Wednesday evening an inquest was held by the

Coroner on Harold Bernard Playfair Houghton, aged 15, eldest son of Mr

Bernard Houghton I.C.S. of Abbotsham Court, who was drowned while bathing at Abbotsham Cliffs. The Rev. Walpole M. Sealy, son of the late Vicar, who was on holiday, attempted to save the young life, but had to abandon his task, after having previously saved the deceased lad’s sister.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidently drowned”.

(August 1915- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On September 16th 1915 to Mr and Mrs Frank Bale of “Carnbrae”,

Abbotsham, a daughter (stillborn).

(September 21st 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The School Nurse has recently visited the School and reported very favourably on cleanliness and general appearance of the children. Every

girl was examined for signs of pediculosis, but not one single case to report.

The senior girls of the school arranged a little entertainment, the proceeds going to the School War Fund. The sum of £1.16.6d was raised, this being spent in purchasing wool for knitting socks and other comforts for our sailors and soldiers.

(November 16th 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In response to the appeal from the Overseas Club, the schoolchildren have

subscribed and collected £1. 2s. This money will be spent in purchasing

and sending extra Christmas Day gifts to the men at the front.

(November 30th 1915 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The news of the death of Private Joseph Bale was received here with much

sorrow and sympathy is expressed to his parents and his wife and dear little boy. The deceased had always lived in the Parish, and was a sub postman, which post he resigned to join the 9th Devons. He had not been at the front many weeks. It seemed he was on sentry duty in the first trench, and the officer going on his rounds stopped to speak to him, when a German rifle grenade pitched between them, seriously wounding the officer, and killing Bale almost instantaneously. His body was interred in the Military Cemetery just beyond the lines, at a spot well known by the soldiers as “Windy Corner”. Sgt Stephen Bale, brother of the late Private Bale is on active service with the Royal North Devon Hussars. Private Bale was 32 years old.

(November 30th 1915- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 25th, Edward Molesworth Walpole Sealy, Captain R.E. son of the late Preb. and Mrs Sealy of Abbotsham, and beloved husband of Caroline (nee Baulkwill), aged 26 years, after a short illness from septic poisoning.

(December 29th 1915 - BG).

**THE FUNERAL OF CAPT. E.M.W. SEALY.**

The funeral of the late Captain E.M.W. Sealy, Royal Engineers, son of the

late Preb. R.W. Sealy and Mrs Sealy of Abbotsham, who died on Christmas Day after a brief illness, took place at Abbotsham Church on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large attendance. Shortly before the outbreak of war Captain Sealy returned from Africa where he had been engaged for twelve months on the Anglo-Belgium Commission determining the frontier of Northern Rhodesia and the Congo Free State. He went to the front for three to four weeks, and being shot in the arm he was temporarily invalided. Just before Christmas he was laid up with influenza and pleurisy and other complications setting in, and he passed away from septic poisoning just six weeks from the date of his marriage to Miss Caroline Baulkwill. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Kempe, Vicar of Abbotsham assisted by the Rev. Canon Braithwaite, an uncle of the deceased. The grave was lined with laurel and was adjoining that in which the deceased’s father Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy - was laid to rest just thirteenmonths ago. The immediate mourners were, Mrs C. Sealy (widow); Mrs Sealy (mother); Mrs Nicholson; Miss Avice Sealy and Miss Inez Sealy (sisters); Rev. Walpole Sealy (brother); Miss Vidal (aunt); Mr Edwin Vidal (uncle); Mr C. Didham (uncle); Miss Baulkwill (sister in law); Mrs Eyre and Miss Thompson (Cornborough)

(January 4th 1916 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On February 28th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham by Rev. Canon Kempe - Henry

Tucker to Sybil Mary Glover - both of Abbotsham.

(February 29th 1916- BG).

**DEATH**

Notification has been received from the Chaplain of the Devons of the death

while on sentry duty in the trenches of Private William Cloak *(Cloke?)* of Abbotsham. The deceased who was shot in the chest by a sniper, leaves a widow and two young children. Prior to joining up he was a farm labourer. He is the third man from Abbotsham to be killed on active service. He was aged 25 years and served in the 8th Devons, being killed in France on March 9th.

(March 21st 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

Killed in action in Mesopotamia on March 8th - Ambrose Joseph Cocks Heriz

Smith, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Heriz-Smith of Slade, Bideford, aged 37

years. A memorial service will be held in Abbotsham Church.

(March 21st 1916 - BG).

**DEATH.**On the 23rd inst at Coombe Cottage, Abbotsham - Violet Dora Heaven -

youngest daughter of De B. Spencer Heaven and the late Mrs Heaven. She

was a talented artist and exhibited in the Royal Academy.

(March 28th 1916 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Information has reached the parish that Private William James of the

Coldstream Guards was wounded by a shell on March 22nd. He joined the

regiment in December 1914. His mother has received a letter from the

Chaplain saying, “I regret to inform you that your son Private James was

admitted to hospital with a shell wound in his right arm. He is one of the

pluckiest fellows I have met out here and I am pleased to tell you that he is doing well. You will probably very soon have him home, but I am afraid you must be prepared to greet him with only one arm”.  
(April 4th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 29th at Bideford - William Hearn - husband of Selina, late of Rixlade, Abbotsham.

(May 2nd 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Private William James having lost his right arm at Ypres is now proceeding to a convalescent home on the South Coast.

Corporal John Huxtable of the Royal Field Artillery who was seriously

wounded at Loos, and has since had a leg amputated, has now gone into a

military hospital, and hopes shortly to be fitted with an artificial limb.

(May 30th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**On 19th inst at Enmore, The Quay, Bideford - Maria Elizabeth Glynn,

youngest daughter of the late Major John Edmond Glynn, of the 4th Madras

Native Infantry, aged 76 years. She was interred in the family vault at

Abbotsham.

(June 27th 1916 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to hear that Private Wallace Downing of the Canadian Mounted

Rifles is a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, and is confined in a camp in Westphalia. He was captured during severe fighting at Ypres.

Private William James convalescing at Brighton is having a very gay time.

He writes home most cheerfully and tells that he had the honour of taking tea with the Mayoress of Brighton.

(June 27th 1916 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On July 9th at Coombe Walter, Abbotsham, to Mr and Mrs A.J. Harris – a daughter.  
(July 11th 1916 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 14th at Petrockstowe - Mary Jane - wife of George Heywood - late of

Lake Farm, Abbotsham, aged 67 years.  
(July 18th 1916 - BG).

**LT. R.C. BOYD.**

Second Lieutenant Robert Colin Boyd, Devonshire Regiment, killed in action

on July 14th (France’s Day), was the second son of Mr and Mrs A.H. Boyd of

— “Bellevue”, Westward Ho. He was with the Great Northern Railway when war broke out. He enlisted in the Public School Corps and received a commission in the Xlth Devons in November 1914. He was sent on a draft to the 2nd Hampshire Regiment in July 1915, he was in the “Royal Edward” and marvellously escaped with his life. Although severely injured he made a

good recovery and joined the 8th Devons in March last. He was leading his

Company when he fell. His Colonel writes, “He was loved by us all and by

all the men of the Battalion. Lt. Boyd was 23 years of age, and was a general favourite. The greatest sympathy is felt for the family in their great loss”.

(July 25th 1916- BG).

**THE LATE MRS GEORGE HEYWOOD.**The funeral of the late Mrs George Heywood took place at Abbotsham on

Wednesday. She died after a long illness at the age of 67.

(July 25th 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At St Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on Monday September 11th the wedding was celebrated of Mr John Huxtable, late Corporal in the Royal Field Artlillery, of Abbotsham, and Miss Eveline Gilbert of Fosketh Terrace,

Westward Ho. Great interest was taken in the event, the bridegroom having

done valiant service for his country, being wounded at Loos, and suffering

amputation of the left leg. In Mr William James, too, the best man, late of

the Coldstream Guards, was another of our gallant lads who lost his right arm at Ypres.

(September 19th 1916- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 21 st at Coombe Cottage, Abbotsham, De B. Spencer Heaven Esq. aged 80.

(December 28th 1916- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The War Work Committee invited all the workers and helpers belonging to

the Parish to a meeting in the Schoolroom on Thursday afternoon December

28th, when Mrs Fanshaw, the Hon. Treasurer, read the report of the work

done during the past year. The number of garments made amounted to over

1,000, and the money collected for buying materials to nearly £40. In

addition the school children provided wool out of their own School War Box,

and knitted 27 pairs of mittens to send to the men from the parish who are

serving their country. Mrs Fanshawe mentioned that 27 members have received the Voluntary Workers badge for regular work. It is proposed to open a War Work Room for the Parish at Coombe Gate for three days in the week, to work for the troops at the front and for the War Hospitals, and many promised to attend.

(January 2nd 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The body of the late Miss Mary Blackmore was laid to rest in the parish

churchyard amid manifest tokens of sympathy and respect. Some years ago

she was a teacher in the Sunday Schools, and for a great number of years a

member of the church ladies choir. The bearers were members of the choir

and ringers.

(January 16th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st at Salonika - George, only son of Mr J. Whitten of Winsford

Farm, sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and children.

February 13th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 7th, suddenly, at Greencliff Farm, Abbotsham - the dearly beloved

wife of George Braunton, aged 67.

(March 13th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Church of St. Helen’s, Abbotsham, has recently been enriched by a

beautifully carved Litany Desk. It is of oak and the gift of Mrs Flower,

Glenmuir, Minister in Sheppy, Kent. The work is designed to be quite in

harmony with the 13th century type of architecture of the building. The front has a panel of crisply carved foliage. The sides are traceried and contain shields bearing the heraldic arms of the Seymour and Flower families. The inscriptions are in Latin. The work was designed and executed by Messrs Harry Hems & Sons, Ecclesiastical Sculptors, of Exeter.  
(July 7th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday afternoon last Mr C. Berry, F.R.H.S. of the Devon County Staff, visited the school gardens, and expressed his delight with the work of the boys. After, he gave a demonstration in potato spraying, the boys assisting to make the mixture.

(July 17th 1917- BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 6th at Youlstone, Abbotsham Road, Bideford - George Heywood,

late of Lake Farm, Abbotsham, aged 83.

(August 7th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 10th, Frances, daughter of the late Mr Hearn of Rixlade,

Abbotsham, and Mrs Hearn of 18 Bridge Street, Bideford, aged 17 years.

(August 14th 1917 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Abbotsham local branch of the County Association of War Workers, whose H.Q. is at Exeter, has just sent there, to the Mayoress, Mrs Fanshawe, another consignment of articles. The numbers sent now totals - 924 pairs of

socks, 261 mufflers, 408 mittens, 254 shirts, this makes a grand total of

3,119 articles since the commencement of war.

(August 28th 1917 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr and Mrs James of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham, have received word that their son Private Richard James has been wounded in recent fighting in France, and is now in a London Military Hospital. He was previously a member of the “B” Division in the Metropolitan Police, and last year enlisted in the Household Cavalry, and had been at the front about five months.

(October 30th 1917 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Gunner William Edwin Silke, R.C.A., grandson of the late William Balkwill

Silke of Abbotsham - killed in action in France on 31st July 1917 aged 25

years.

(November 20th 1917 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**On April 10th at East Grinstead - Walpole Eyre Sealy, elder son of the late

Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy of Abbotsham - to Mary, the only daughter of Mr and

Mrs Ashton G. Radcliffe of East Grinstead.

(April 16th 1918- BG).

**DEATH**

On May 28th at Abbotsham, Constantine Brock, husband of Annie Brock, aged 44 yrs.

(June 4th 1918- BG).

**DEATH**

On September 2nd, killed in action, Private John Hearn, only son of the late

Mr Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham, and of Mrs Hearn of 18 Bridge Street,

Bideford, aged 28 years.

(September 17th 1918 - 6G).

**DEATH**

On October 21st at Winsford Cottage - Joseph Welch James son of the late

Martin James of Abbotsham, aged 63 years.

(October 29th 1918- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Great interest was taken in the wedding on January 13th of Mr John Manning

of Manchester, and Miss Kathleen Louisa James, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edwin James of Rose Cottage, Abbotsham. The ceremony took place at Sr. Helen’s. Mr Wallace Downing, brother in law of the bride, and belonging to the Canadian Mounted Rifles, who has only recently returned to England after being a prisoner in the hands of the Huns for two and half years, carried out the duties of best man. The bridegroom saw plenty of foreign service, and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

(January 21st 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Abbotsham Local Branch of the County Association of War Workers closed at the end of April. The Branch has sent regularly to Exeter since the

autumn of 1914, and the number of articles sent totalled 4,760. The ommittee decided to send the balance of money in hand (£18 3s 4d) to the

South Western Counties Branch of the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops at

Plymouth.

(June 3rd 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Saturday last at about 1.30am Mrs Elizabeth Easton, a widow of Abbotsham village, aged 74 years was found dead in bed. The facts of the case were communicated to the Coroner, who held an inquest the same evening. Death was due to natural causes.

(June 24th 1919 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 28th at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Canon Kempe - Mr Gerald

Hutchings of Westward Ho to Ethel Brock of Abbotsham.

(September 2nd 1919 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On September 24th 1919 at Abbotsham - the wife of Joiner J.F.L. Friendship,

H.M.S. London, of a son.

(October 14th 1919 - BG).

**HARVEST HOME SUPPER.**

A very welcome revival of one of the customs of the good old times took place on Thursday last, when the farmers of the parish of Abbotsham invited their workmen with their wives and other helpers during the harvest, together with some friends, to a good old fashioned harvest home supper and evenings enjoyment. Mr J. F. Phillips of Winsford kindly lent his large barn, where many such festive gatherings had taken place in the past, and considerably over l00 met together. The walls had been suitably decorated with bunting and flowers, with strings of fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns, but even better still was the decoration of the long tables up and down the room, with real Devonshire home-cured hams, round of beef and home fed lamb, not frozen this time, but roasted with other nice things, including apple pie, junkets etc to follow. After grace had been said, ample justice was done to the excellent fare provided. At the conclusion of the repast, Mr Ashby, who had been the Chairman of the organising committee, gave the toast of “The King” which was drunk heartily. With dancing and singing the time passed all too quickly up to midnight, when further refreshments, such as tea and coffee, cake and buns, were partaken by all. Before breaking up “Auld Lang Syne” was heartily sung, and the National Anthem brought us to the end of a perfect evening.(September 30th 1919 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 6th at Abbotsham after many years of illness quietly and patiently borne, Elizabeth Ann, the wife of Thomas F. Friendship, aged 49.  
(October 1919- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Constable Blackmore of Abbotsham has retired from the Police Force after

serving nearly 30 years in the “M” Division, during which time he has won

many friends, who wish him a long life to enjoy his well-earned pension.

(November 4th 1919 - BG).

**DEATH.**

At Buckleigh House, Westward Ho on November 9th - Alexander Blakely

J Patterson, C.I.E. Bengal Civil Service (retired). The funeral will be held tomorrow at Abbotsham Church.

(November 11th 1919- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A successful entertainment was given at the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham on

Wednesday evening last in aid of the Sunday School Funds. The programme included the hymn “Brightly Gleams our Banner”. Recitations were given by the Juniors - Phyllis Moase, Annie Ridd, Dorothy Moase, Joyce Moase, Hilda Ridd, Dorothy Ridd. Seniors - Miss Maggie Hill and Miss Moase. Dialogues by Misses Jackman, Joyce Moase and Rose Jones. Duet by Phyllis Moase and Lily Jones. The Rev. E. Trotman presided over a good attendance.

(December 2nd 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On December 1st at Torrington Police Station, Superintendent Shutler presented Constable Blackmore of Abbotsham with a silver mounted umbrella, inscribed, “Presented to Const. Blackmore by members of “M” Division on his retiring after 29 years service on October 21st 1919”. Mrs Blackmore was presented with a silver butter dish.

(December 9th 1919 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very pleasant social gathering was held in the Baptist Chapel, Abbotsham

on Wednesday evening last. Recitations were given by Allan Moase, Willy

Moase, Eddie Hill, Harry Ridd, Anne Ridd, Dorothy Ridd, Hilda Ridd, Joyce

Moase and Dorothy Moase. Dialogues by Joyce Moase and Florry Jackman. A duet was sung by Joyce and Phyllis Moase, and hymns by the little ones. Mr J. Moase and Miss E. Glover were the organists.

(February 24th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 2nd at Bideford, Frank, the youngest son of the late Charles

Henry Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham, to Dorothy May Tythcott, youngest

daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. Tythcott of 21 Winbourne Terrace, Bideford.

(August 10th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Phyllis B. Moase, a pupil of Abbotsham School was successful at the

examination held in June last, and has been awarded a scholarship by the

Devon County Education authorities tenable at Edgehill College.

(August 24th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

The firm of Slee & Sons of Torrington conducted a highly successful sale of

live stock at Greencliff, Abbotsham - the property of Mr J.H. Turner, Dunster, who is quitting the farm. The following prices were obtained –breeding ewes £6.6s to £7.15s; Ewe lambs 80s - lOOs; Cows and calves £45.5s to £53.lOs; Ram lambs six to nine guineas; Sows in farrow £20; Slip pigs

£6.12.6d.

(September 14th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

At Abbotsham Parish Church on September 20th - Thomas Henry Bale, second son of Mr and Mrs Bale of Bideford, and Miss Hilda Grace Slee, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Slee of Riccards Down.

(September 28th 1920 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 4th at Garston, Liverpool - William Goodwin Millward of Liverpool to Melia Florence Barnacott, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Barnacott of Abbotsham.

(October 12th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Miniature Rifle Club members have again started their winter season, and they welcome old and new members. Shooting nights are Tuesdays from

7-9pm.

(October 26th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM COURT SOLD.**

Abbotsham Court covering an area of 34A and 34P, including a spacious country house, outhouses etc, well wooded grounds and meadow land wasoffered for sale at Exeter. It was sold to Mr Saltmarsh of Stafford for £3,000.(December 7th 1920 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Thursday January 6th a very successful and well attended Dance was

held in Abbotsham Schoolroom in aid of the Parish Hall which is greatly

needed. It was arranged by members of Mrs Kempe’s sewing party. All the

refreshments were given by the ladies. There were various guessing

competitions and songs, and Mr Braddon played his accordion. The piano

was presided over by Mrs and Miss Sealy. the proceeds amounted to

£10.9.2d. There were no expenses.

(January 11th 1921 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Committee of the Rifle Club organised a successful social evening held

in the Schoolroom on Old Christmas Eve, and was largely attended. There

were songs, duets, dances and games. The skipping and pig drawing competitions were very keen. Many kind friends provided refreshments. Mr

and Mrs V.C. Hooper were responsible for the greater part of the music

(January 18th 1921 - BC).

**FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place on Friday of Mr Josiah Witheridge, bootmaker of

Abbotsham who died after a short illness. He leaves a daughter (Mrs Cloke),

an only child and two grandchildren to mourn their loss. He was aged 79

years.

(March 22nd - 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

By the wedding which took place at St. Helen’s, the brilliant weather on

Wednesday afternoon last, and amidst general congratulations and rejoicing  
of the villagers, two families were united which have been long known and

held in the highest esteem in the district. The bride was Miss Violet Inez

Sealy, third and youngest daughter of the late Rev. Preb. R.W. Sealy. The

bridegroom was the Rev Ernest Hampden Nind, was brought up by his brothers in the district, and was no stranger at the Vicarage from his boyhood days. He is a son of Colonel Nind R.A. and Mrs Nind, now of Parkstone, but formerly of “Rockydown”, Abbotsham. Col. Nind was at one time well known

as the Secretary of the United Services College, Westward Ho. Through the thoughtfulness of the Vicar, Rev. Canon Kempe, the Vicarage was placed

at the disposal of the family for the wedding, and the bride had therefore the felicity of being married from her old home. The village festivities in

connection with the wedding were held the previous day, and included a

public tea in the Schoolroom, which was prettily decorated. In a field kindly lent by Mr Andrew a well contested skittle match was held, and games for the children until 9 o’ clock

(July 5th 1921 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 3rd July at Beltevue, Westward Ho - Gertrude, the beloved wife of

Archibald Henry Boyd aged 71 years. The funeral will be held at Abbotsham

today at 3pm.

(July 5th 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE CLAIM.**

On the claims for the parish of Abbotsham heard at the Revision Court before the Resolving Officer, defection was taken to the name of Major R.C.J. Pollock on the ground that he had not occupied the qualifying period. He wrote that he took the house furnished in May last. Mr Nuttall submitted that it was not necessary for a serving soldier to occupy the full period of six months - The Representation of the People Act 1918 provided that in the case of a naval or military voter one months qualification shall be substituted for six months. The Revising Officer allowed the vote.

(August 1921 - BC). .

**ABBOTSHAM v ALWINGTON.**

At Barton Park on Saturday this proved a very pleasant game. It was

Abbotsham’s opening match. Tucker scored in the first five minutes.

Alwington scored from a penalty. Prust put the home side ahead with a

penalty, and then further goals came from Prust and Smale.- Abbotsham

winning 4 - 1. Many thanks to Mr J. Andrews for lending the field.

(October 11th 1921 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual Harvest Home Supper was held in Winsford Barn by kind permission of Mr J.H. Phillips on November 9th when about 160 were present.

(November 15th 1921 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On January 7th 1922 at Abbotsham - George Cork, aged 86 years. The

funeral will be held on 11th January at 2.30.

(January 10th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful Social and Dance was held in the Schoolroom on Thursday

January 12th in aid of Lord Weardale’s “Save the Children Fund”. The event

was organised by several ladies of the parish. The musical programme was

provided by Messrs Prior, Dunn, Allen and Glover, and Misses Judd and Giddy, with Miss short at the piano. Messrs T. and C. Easton also played

the violin, and Miss Vicary gave a mandolin solo. Dancing was kept up until

12pm. The net proceeds were £9.7.6d which is to be divided between the

British and Russian children.  
(January 24th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club Committee by kind permission of the School Managers held

Whist Drive and Dance in the Schoolroom on Wednesday evening last with

nearly 120 present.

(February 14th 1922 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St. Helen’s on February 25th - Miss Annie Bellew, second daughter of Mr

and Mrs Bellew of Pusehill, Westward Ho to Mr Ambrose Edward Fulford,  
youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.U. Fulford of Southcott, Bideford.

(February 28th 1922 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham Football Club defeated Appledore at Abbotsham on Saturday by

3 goals (Cloutman and Moase, and one accidently scored by a visitor) to one. Mr Langdon refereed.

(March 7th 1922 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In their last fifteen matches, Abbotsham Football Club has scored 43 goals

against only eight registered against them.

(April 18th 1922 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On May 9th at Combe Walter, Abbotsham - to Mr and Mrs A.J. Harris, a son.

(May 16th 1922- BG).

**DEATH.**

On 31st May at 34 Myrtle Grove, Bideford - Robert Alun, late of Sutcombe

and Abbotsham, aged 80.

(June 13th 1922- BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 3rd 1922 at Westcott, Abbotsham - Elizabeth Ellis, aged 85 years.

(August 8th 1922 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The annual Harvest Supper given by the farmers to their workmen, their

wives and various friends was held as usual by kind permission of Mr J.H.

Phillips in Winsford Barn, and was a great success. About 130 were present. We had good Devon beef, hams etc. and afterwards various “nick nacks” as our forefathers termed it, and these with plenty of “Demshur crame, went down most butiful”. In fact we had to cry “hold” before us cude sample it all. They say country folks take their pleasures somewhat sadly, but it was

not so on this occasion, for as soon as the tables had been cleared, dancing and music followed. The “Appy Eight” were present and gave various  
selections.

(October 24th 1922- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Lectures on Poultry Keeping are to be given by Devon County Council

lecturer at Abbotsham on three Wednesday evenings - 1st, 8th and 22nd

November. Admission will be free.

(October 31st 1922- BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

One of the most successful Variety entertainments ever given in Abbotsham

was held on Thursday evening last. It was arranged by Mrs Bernard Kempe

and Miss A.F. Turner. the first part of the programme consisted of songs

and choruses. The second part was a sketch “Mary’s Sister John”. This was followed by a Dance and other amusements such as bran pie, dips, cake

weighing and dolls, It closed at about 11.45pm, and it was the opinion of

one and all that it was one of the finest that had been held in Abbotsham.

(January 9th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Owing to the rapid spread of measles it has been found impossible to open

the day school since Christmas, but it is hoped to commence again on

Monday next the 5th February.

(January 30th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club up to date has had a most successful run, and the number of

members has increased. A visitor some little while ago thought we were “hot

stuff’, especially when in a friendly match the average was just over 98.

(January 30th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Before a very full house a most successful concert was given by Mr W.J.  
Barry’s “Rainbow Party” on Thursday last. All the artiste deserve the

greatest praise for the manner in which the items were rendered.

(February 13th 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The H.M. Inspector recently visited the day school and spent a very pleasant day with the teachers and children. When leaving he expressed his

pleasure with the work and tone of the school.

(May 22nd 1923 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CLUB SOCIAL.**

To celebrate their success in winning the second Division of the Kingsley

District League at the first time of asking, the Abbotsham Football Club held a social gathering on Thursday last. A sumptuous party was provided in the Schoolroom.

(June 19th 1923 - BG).

**DEATH OF MR J. HEYWOOD J.P.**

Mr Joshua Heywood J.P. who passed away at “Hawthorn”, Abbotsham Road,

Bideford yesterday, was the son of Mr Joseph Heywood of Lake Farm, Abbotsham.  
(November 6th 1923 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful entertainment has been given in the Schoolroom on behalf

of the Parish Hall Fund, organised by Mrs Bernard Kempe.

(November 17th 1923 - BC).

**DEATH OF MR R.B. JAMES.**

We regret to record the death at Foxwold, Westward Ho on Tuesday last at the age of 73 years, of Mr Richard Boucher James, a gentleman long resident

in the district, and the head of a family, held in the highest esteem. He

studied for law, and was articled to the firm of solicitors, Messrs Rooker & Bazeley. He then went to the Colonies, sheepfarming in Australia, but

returned to settle down in his home district. Since living at Foxwold he had taken a great interest in everything in the parish of Abbotsham, and some years ago succeeded Gen. Fanshawe as one of the Churchwardens, which

office he held until his death. His wife who predeceased him was the daughter of the late Admiral Charlwood of Porthill, Northam. The funeral

took place at Abbotsham churchyard and by request there was no choir or

hymns, no muffled peal, and interment was in a plain earth grave.

**ABBOTSHAM BRANCH.**

On Thursday evening last at the New Inn, the Abbotsham Branch of the

British Legion held their first meeting since being reorganised.

(February 26th 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

News was received with regret of the death of George Worth, the youngest

son of Mr and Mrs H. Worth of Moreton Lodge on the Hartland Road. He was only ill for a few days with influenza, and then meningitis set in. The

funeral took place at Abbotsham on Friday last. The deceased had been a

boy chorister, and was one of the younger band of ringers.

(February 26th 1924 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On February 28th 1924 at Bideford United Methodist Church - Daisy May

Fulford only daughter of Alderman J.U. Fulford and Mrs Fulford of Salterns to William John Bellew, the third son of Mr T. and Mrs Bellew of Pusehill,

Abbotsham.

(March 4th 1924- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The wedding took place at Abbotsham Church of Mr William Vaggers of

Littleham and Miss Elsie Andrew, daughter of Mr J. Andrew of the Barton,

Abbotsham.

(March 11th 1924-BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 10th inst at a Nursing Home in London, Lucy Constance - eldest

daughter of the late de Bonniot Spencer Heaven - funeral at Abbotsham

Church at 2pm on 16th inst.

(April 15th 1924 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 24th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Arthur Reginald Alun of

Alwington to Mary Bellew of Pusehill, Westward Ho,

(April 29th 1924 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On April 28th at Geneva Place, Bideford - Miss C. Holman, daughter of the

late T.C. Holman of Abbotsham - aged 75. Funeral on Wednesday at 3pm at

Abbotsham.

(April 29th 1924 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On June 1st at a Clifton Nursing Home - Alma Ellis Squire of Westacott,

Abbotsham - aged 51. Funeral at Abbotsham Thursday at 2.30.

(June 3rd 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

At the invitation of Mrs Pine-Coffin, President, some fifty ladies drawn from all quarters of the far spreading Abbotsham parish, assembled on the tennis court at Kenwith on Monday to be present at the inauguration of a Women’s Section of the British Legion for the district. Forty or more members were enroled.

(July 1st 1924 - BG).

**OLD SOLDIERS DEATH.**

At the Vicarage, Abbotsham yesterday, the North Devon Coroner held an inquest upon Leonard Way Herring, aged 58, who was found in a dying condition in the road between Cornborough and Abbotsham on Friday last,

and expired before medical help could reach him. Mrs Laura Hall of Old

Stone, Abbotsham, said that on about the 1st of July she engaged the

deceased as house-parlourman through an advert in “The Times” newspaper.

He told her he was single, an ex soldier, and that his home address was

Cromer Cottage, Sussex Place, Hammersmith. Mrs Edith May Hadley of 1 High View Terrace, Westward Ho with whom the deceased had lodged said that he had recently been ill. The Vicar, Rev. Canon Kempe said that he thought it a disgraceful thing that the parish had no mortuary - the place which was normally used being the cokehouse adjoining the school premises. Representation on the matter will be made to the Rural District Council. It

was established that this death was a natural one, and this verdict was

accordingly given.

(September 16th 1924 - BG).

**PARISH HALL OPENED.**

Rev. Canon J.A. Kempe presided on Wednesday at the opening of the new

parish hall at Abbotsham. The hall has been erected at the cost of

approximately £1,100 on glebe land to the north of the Church, purchased

from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and freed from all restrictions. It is vested under the Charity Commissioners in eight trustees, four of whom are Churchmen and four Nonconformists, with the Vicar as an ex officio member. It was provided by local subscriptions-all the money being raised except £400 which some residents have guaranteed or advanced a loan. Sports and tea were held in the afternoon, followed by a Concert in the evening. The proceeds of the day were for the internal fittings of the Hall. In 1919 the need of a Village Hall was ventilated.

(October 21st 1924 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The matter having been referred to them by the Rural District Council after

the receipt of a letter from the North Devon Coroner, Abbotsham Parish Council reported to Bideford Rural District Council that they were

unanimously of the opinion that a mortuary should be provided for the parish. The only suitable building for it was a coach house opposite the School whichcould no doubt be altered as necessary, if the owner Mr C.P. Turner would let or sell it. The Rural Council decided to defer the matter for the Alwington members to consider whether a position could be suggested probably in their parish, where a mortuary would be likely to be of more general service to the district.

(November 18th 1924 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

On December 17th at Abbotsham Church of England School an Open or

“Parents Day” was held in order to show and sell some of the chiidrens work. A large number attended. Mrs Beer the headmistress, explained that it was always a pleasure to welcome those interested in the school. Handwork,

although a new subject to these children, was the chief feature of this

exhibition.

(December 23rd 1924 - BG).  
**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Rifle Club have again had a most successful Christmas shoot for prizes

provided by the officers, committee and patrons of the club. By kind

permission of the officers of the Abbotsham British Legion all members of the Rifle Club were invited to the Parish Hall on December 22nd to pass a

pleasant evening in games etc..

(January 6th 1925 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**The “Babes in the Wood” pantomime and Concert kindly given free of expense by Mr and Mrs Bushell’s concert party from Clovelly in aid of the Abbotsham Parish Hall Building Fund on Wednesday drew an audience which is stated to have been the largest gathering ever held in Abbotsham. The takings amounted to over £17.

(January 14th 1925- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The collection made for the National Lifeboat Institution in Abbotsham village amounted to the handsome total of £4.8.4d.

(January 20th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 7th - William Squire of Westacott Farm, Abbotsham aged 60

years.

(February 10th 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A highly successful dramatic entertainment and dance was given on Monday

evening February 23rd, organised by Mrs Bernard Kempe, in aid of providing

fittings for the Parish Hall. Two short plays were performed. There were

refreshments and the net proceeds amounted to £8.18s.

(March 3rd 1925 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On March 7th at Abbotsham Parish Church - William Henry Darch of Bideford

to Lillian Mary Tallin, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Tallin of Abbotsham.

(March 10th 1925 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 6th at Bideford Hospital - Penry Ley, youngest son of Mr and Mrs

J. Ley of Riccards Downs, Abbotsham, aged 13 years.

(March 17th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 19th at Abbotsham - Albert Tallin aged 55 years.

(May 26th 1925 - BG).

**BIDEFORD RACES.**

Ideal conditions prevailed for North Devon’s chief sporting engagement

yesterday, the opening meeting of the season of the Shebbertown Race Club.

There were 38 entries in five events. The attendance was about 2,000, and

only three bookmakers stands were occupied. Band music enlivened the

proceedings between the races. The next meeting at Shebbertown is on

Wednesday July 1st when the principal event will be the Tapely Park Cup of

80 sovereigns.

(June 2nd 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FAIR.**

Abbotsham was en fete on the occasion of the Fair held in aid of the Parish Hall Building Fund on Wednesday. The streets were decorated with flags, and a steady stream of people entered the fair field adjoining the Parish Hallduring the afternoon. There was skittling for a pig, bowling for fowls and ducks, aunt sally, hidden treasure, and “Zara” the celebrated clairvoyant was present. A Baby Show was organised by Mrs Beer of “Woodcote”, Abbotsham, and was held in the Parish Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress of Bideford - Dr Toye and Miss Keene, were the judges, and 103 babies were entered. There were three classes –

Under l2months - Reginald Taylor.

Over 1 year and under 2 years - Baby Kelly. O

Over 2 years and under 3 years Owen Mathews.

The Baby show was followed by a wireless concert.

There was Folk Dancing on the lawn, and a Concert. The Bideford Town

Band were present. The total receipts amounted to over £150.

(June 23rd 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

About fifty of the school children and friends under the direction of Mrs Beer went to Woolacombe by a char-a-banc on Friday week for an outing. At the invitation of Captain & Mrs Dent of Keene, the children of the village were entertained to sports, games etc and tea on Monday. Mrs Day (Ruling  
Councillor of the Iddesleigh Habitation of the Primrose League) attended from Bideford to help with the formation of a Junior Branch of the Abbotsham Habitation of the League.  
(July 14th 1925 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The attendance at Abbotsham School has been excellent during the past

week. They have had 100 percent during the whole week. This has only

happened once before during the last 13 years.

(October 6th 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH HALL.**

On Thursday the first anniversary of the opening of the Abbotsham Parish

Hall was marked by a Whist Drive and Dance to celebrate the event.

(October 20th 1925- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Sunday last week the men and women’s section of the British Legion

marched to the Parish Church. At the end of the service two buglers

sounded the “Last Post”. Wreaths were placed on the memorial cross by M

W. James and Mrs Sealy.

(November 17th 1925 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Committee of the Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion beg to tender

their appreciation of the trouble taken by Miss Luard and Mrs Beer in arranging for the sale of poppies in Buckleigh and Abbotsham - the total

raised being £9.16.ld.

(November 24th 1925 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 8th in Winchester - Emma Anne Sealy, wife of the Rev. Canon

Braithwaite, and eldest daughter of the late E.U. Vidal Esq of Cornborough,

Abbotsham - aged 80 years.

(December 15th 1925 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

Constable F.L. Barnacott, second son of ex Constable Barnacott of Abbotsham, who has been stationed at Topsham for the past three years, has

been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and will take up his duties at Lifton.

(February 2nd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Monday a demonstration of Morris, Country and Sword Dancing arranged

by Mrs B. Kempe was held at the Abbotsham Parish Hall.

(February 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Guy Dent having resigned the position as Chairman and President of the

Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion after 2 years in office, has been  
succeeded by Mr H.A. Lomas who has taken over his duties.

(March 2nd 1926 BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Buds party, of the Primrose League, held in the Parish Hall on the 10th

inst was attended by 20 children who had an enjoyable time, and in the

evening there was a Whist Drive and Dance arranged by Miss Ridd, the

Warden of Abbotsham.

(March 16th 1926 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 18th at the North Devon Maternity Hospital, Meddon Street,Bideford, to Mr and Mrs Hodges of Kenwith Castle, a son.

(March 23rd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The children of the Abbotsham Day School have had their annual summer outing accompanied by teachers and parents. The Junior children went to Bude, and the Seniors to Plymouth.

(July 6th 1926- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late Mrs A.D. Harris was preceded by a service at the

house conducted by Rev. W.T. Kershaw, the Baptist Minister of Bideford.

The burial service was conducted by Canon Kempe.

(July 13th 1926- BG).

**THE LATE MR F. GLOVER**.

It is with regret we have to record the death of Mr Frank Glover, the fourth son of the late Mr T.H. Glover of the Post Office, Abbotsham, which took place at his home in Roath, South Wales.

(July 27th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mrs Florence Anne Eyre of Lyme Regis who died on April 25th last left an

estate of the gross value of £8,832.15.2d. Probate of the will has been

granted to Rev. G.F. Eyre of West Hill and Hugh Arthur Lomas of Cornborough. The testatrix left £50 each to the executors of the will, and

£100 each to her grandchildren, £600 to her two children desiring them touse the same for the benefit of Alathea Sealy VidaI of Langdon, Abbotsham.

(August 3rd 1926- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 31st at Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham - Harriet, the wife of the late George Cork, late of Pusehill, Abbotsham - aged 88 years.

(August 3rd 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

By the kindness of Mr & Mrs A. Lomas between 40-50 inmates of BidefordPoor Law Institution were conveyed by charabancs to Cornborough House on Tuesday. The weather was gloriously fine and the party derived much pleasure from exploring the beautiful grounds. A sumptuous tea was given, and when the time came round for the return journey, one and all voted it was the best outing they had had. The previous week Mrs H.N.G. Stucley had

entertained a party from the Infirmary at Bideford Poor Law Institution,

mustering about half a dozen.

(August 24th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 24th at Fair View House, Abbotsham - Mary Ann - beloved wife of

James Daniel, aged 83.

(August 31 st 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Roland Whittle, nephew of Mr and Mrs Hooper, late schoolmaster and

mistresss of Abbotsham Church School, has passed his final examination for

a B.A. degree.

(September 7th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 1 3th at Greencliff, Abbotsham - Anne Maria, beloved wife of

George Jackman, aged 54 years.

(September 14th 1926- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Winners at the open winter session whist drive at the Parish Hall, were Misses Ackland, Barnacott and Alford, and Messrs Squire, Ridd and Tucker. A Dance followed. Proceeds to the reduction of the debt on the building fund.

(October 12th 1926 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The death occurred at 2 Buttgarden Street, Bideford on Tuesday of Mr James

Brown, formerly of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham. He was 87 years of age, and

was at one time a well known cattle and sheep breeder.

(October 19th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Ringers of Abbotsham Parish Church had an enjoyable half days outing

to Sheepwash, Black Torrington and Shebbear.

(November 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The women’s section of Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion promoted a

Whist Drive and Dance in the Parish Hall. Mr Hooper, the Secretary and

Treasurer of the Men’s Section acted as M.C. for the Whist, and Mrs

Magniac, who acts in a similar capacity for the Women’s distributed the  
prizes. Mr R. Davies was M.C. for the Dance.

(November 9th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Grace Churchill which took place at  
“Carnbrae”, the residence of her daughter, on November 5th. She had been

a great invalid and confined to her bed for the last 25 years, but bore her

suffering with great cheerfulness and courage. She was 78 years of age.

(November 16th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A very successful concert organised by Mrs Frank Bale was given in the

Village Hall on Monday evening by local performers and friends from

Bideford. The proceeds amounted to £2.12s, and after paying expenses,  
£1.1 5s has been handed to the Bideford Rescue and Preventive Association.

(November 30th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Primrose League Celebration - A very successful social gathering was held at the Abbotsham Parish Hall on Wednesday last when following an afternoon

entertainment in the form of tea and games in which the “Buds” participated

in high glee, about 100 adults attended a well organised Whist Drive and

Dance. There were about 30 “Buds” at tea. Mrs Daw, Ruling Councillor, presided and was assisted by Mrs Stent, Dame Warden, and Miss Ridd,

Warden. The “Buds” asked Mrs Daw to present Miss Ridd with a cut glass sugar caster in appreciation of her great kindness to them during her

wardenship. (December 7th 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful evening in aid of the Orthopaedic Hospital for Crippled

Children was organised by Mrs Beer, and a good sum was realised by the

assistance of Miss Ward’s “Day Dream” children. In the evening a Concert

by the Bideford Electrics gave great pleasure to a large assembly.

(December 21st 1926 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Mrs Thurza Slee, wife of Mr William Slee of Tenby, and formerly of

“Trayattar”, Abbotsham, was engaged in her household duties on December

14th when she had a heart attack and immediately expired. She was 71

years of age. Much sympathy is felt for Mr Slee and his 6 children.

(December 29th 1926 - BG).

**CANON KEMPE.**

On Sunday evening Canon Kempe received an illuminated address which also contained the list of the names of all those who had subscribed to his

testimonial which amounted to £102.11.6d, and which had been handed to him previously by the Churchwardens of Abbotsham. The address which had been unavoidably delayed was as follows - “To the Rev. Canon Kempe M.A. We the undersigned, past and present parishioners of Abbotsham ask you to receive herewith this token of our esteem and affection on your retirement, after twelve years incumbency of the Vicarage of Abbotsham, in memory of your devoted and successful service”.  
(January 18th 1927- BG).

**NEW VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**

The living of Abbotsham which is in the gift of Mrs Sealy, widow of the late Preb. Walpole Sealy, has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. E.A. Du Cane M.A. Oxon, Vicar of Hatfield Heath, Essex. From 1895 - 1897 he was

Curate at Portsea, for the next two years Curate at Eastgate, Lincoln, from

1899 to 1902 Chaplain to H.M. Prison, Lincoln, Borstal Chaplain for five

years, then after service at Manchester and Armitage, the Rev, gentleman

was Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of St. Albans from 1909 - 1915, since

which time he has been Vicar at Hatfield Heath. He hopes to commence  
duties at Abbotsham in February.

(January 25th 1927 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Abbotsham Branch of the English Folk Dancing Society held a Fancy

Dress Dance on Wednesday last in the Parish Hall. The prizewinners were

Girls. Edna Cork (Little Miss Muffet). 2. Winnie Henderson (Comic Papers).

Boys. 1. Fred Davis (Eastern Page) 2. Bertie Cloke (Footballer).

Ladies. 1. Mrs N. Bale (Duchess of Devonshire). 2. Mrs F. Bale (Picture Postcard Stand).

Gentlemen. 1. Mr C. Ackland (The Mayor of Abbotsham). 2. Mr H. lssac. (Toytown Soldier).

(February 8th 1927 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The annual meeting of the Women’s Section of the British Legion was held

on Thursday with Miss Vidai in the Chair. Mrs Pine Coffin (President) and

about forty members attended. Mrs Magniac (Hon.Sec.) read the report of

the years work. The Branch started with 45 members, 2 have resigned, and

there are now 73 *(sic).* All officers were re-elected with the addition of Mrs Byres (Kenwith) as Hon. Treasurer.

(February 22nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Arthur Jackson *(Jackman?)* of Greecliff Farm obtained a 1st Class Certificate at the Devon Music Competition held in Barnstaple on March 10th for elocution. He was trained by Mrs S.D. Beer, the school mistress.

(March 15th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday at the time of the arrival of the new Vicar, the Rev, du Cane,

the ringers gave him a cheerful peal of welcome which was much appreciated. The ringers had scarcely finished when the Vicar arrived at the belfry to thank them personally.

(March 22nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Easter services at Abbotsham Parish Church were bright and hearty. The

communicants numbered 110 and the Easter offerings for the Vicar amounted

to £18.13.6d.

(April 26th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the opening of the ex-servicemens outdoor skittle alley some good scores

were made. For the two prizes given, the Secretary took first place with a

fine 71, and Mr B. Easton was second with 63. The Secretary gave his prize

back to be competed for again.

(May 10th 1927- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of the late Miss Elizabeth Hearn, eldest daughter of the late

William Hearn of Rixlade, Abbotsham took place at Abbotsham churchyard

on Wednesday.

(June 28th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday July 6th the Infants of Abbotsham Church of England School were taken by charabanc to Croyde Bay. After a long play on the sands they

were taken for a nice tea. On July 8th the Seniors were taken to Exeter and

Exmouth by charabanc.

(July 19th 1927 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

It is with great regret that news was received of the death of Mr John Henry Bale on Thursday at the Bristol Infirmary, eldest son of the late John Bale and Mrs Bale of Homewood, Abbotsham. A gardener by profession, he had been in the employ of Mr and Mrs Brocklebank in Dorset. His death  
occurred at the early age of 48, and he is greatly mourned by his wife and

two children.

(August 2nd 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr H.A. Lomas of Cornborough, who, whilst

playing tennis, slipped and fell, breaking his leg in two places.

(August 9th 1927 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On August 17th at Abbotsham Parish Church by the Rev. E.A. du Cane -

George Shepard of Kent to Elsie Bray, youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs Bray

of Abbotsham Court Lodge, Abbotsham.

(August 30th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A branch of the County Library is to be formed at Abbotsham with Mr E. Beer

as Secretary. Books can be had on loan, free of charge.

(September 13th 1927 - BG).

DEATH OF **ABBOTSHAM POSTMISTRESS**

The death of Miss Mary J. Glover, postmistress of Abbotsham for the last 18

years on Monday of last week at the age of 72 years was learnt with great

regret by a large circle of friends. She succeeded her mother in the

management of the Post Office business at Abbotsham, and with the cooperation of another sister Miss Edith Glover, has carried on the work in a very efficient manner. The family has lived in the parish for several

generations. The funeral service was held in the Baptist Chapel, previous to interment in the parish burying ground.

(September 20th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM HARVEST FESIIVAL**

The Harvest Thanksgiving services were held in the Parish Church on

September 25th. The ringers following their usual custom opened the day

with merry peals within a minute or two of 6.30am. The festivities continued on Monday with a Public Tea in the Parish Hall, and Sports confined to the residents of Abbotsham. In the evening a Concert arranged by Miss C. Bellew was much enjoyed.

(October 4th 1927 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Parishioners and friends will be very glad to hear that Miss Edith Glover has been appointed the new SubpostmistresS in succession to her sister, lately deceased.

(October 18th 1927 - BG).

**DEATH**

On October 21st at Abbotsham - John Tucker aged 65 years.

(October 25th 1927 - BG).

**DEATH**

On November 7th at Plymstock - James, husband of the late Mary Ann Daniel, late of “Fair View House”, Abbotsham, aged 84 years.

(November 15th 1927 - BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

The Memorial Services held in the Parish Church on November 13th were largely attended. The members of the British Legion met at the Church gate, and led by the choir and clergy, marched in procession into the church.

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial by Mr Lomas and Mrs Sealy. The

Last Post was sounded in memory of the Fallen. The collection was as

usual for Earl Haig’s Appeal and raised the sum of £6.1s. 1Od.

(November 29th 1927 - BG).

**EGG LAYING TRIALS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

The report for the second period (Nov.l2th-Dec.9th) on the Devon County

Egg Laying Trial being conducted at Abbotsham Cross, states that the site is somewhat exposed, and the soil is heavy loam. The competing birds are

divided into two sections, light breeds and heavy breeds. Each competing

pen consists of five birds. The number of birds in the trial has been 200 and the total number of eggs laid during the period was 2,232 against 2,385 in the first period.

(January 3rd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The sympathy of parishioners and friends will be extended to Mr and Mrs J.

Bale of Abbotsham who have received news that Olaf Bale, only son of their

youngest son Joseph (who was killed in the War), was killed on board ship off the coast of Norway, and his body taken to Bergen for burial.

(February 21st 1928 - BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - Rev. E.A. du Cane presided. Elected - George Jackman, Percy

L. Squire, W. Squire, T.F. Friendship, C.H. Pickard, T. Braddon, John  
Hooper, John Andrew.

(March 20th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Women’s Institute Exhibition held at Barnstaple, Mrs Sereta D. Beer,

who is a member of Parkham W.l. obtained first Prize for Basket Making; 1st

Prize for Artificial Flowers; 1st Prize for Swiss Roll; 1st Prize for Bottled Stone Fruit; 2nd Prize for Waste Paper Basket, and Highly Commended for Bottled Soft Fruit.

(March 27th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**A Primrose League whist drive and dance was held in the Parish Hall on April 18th, and was largely attended. Miss Ridd, Warden of Abbotsham, was

responsible for the arrangements.

(May 1st 1928- BG).

ABBOTSHAM FETE.

An original touch was given to the opening ceremony at Abbotsham Fete held

in the Glebe Field on Wednesday by Lady Stucley, who recited some specially composed verses for the event. The Fete was the culmination of efforts by parishioners to raise £200 estimated to be required for the repair and renovation of the interior of the Parish Church. Owing to the prevalence

of a measles epidemic in the village, it was thought at one stage to postpone, but it proved to be a great success. The Bideford Band supplied music throughout. There were numerous stalls and attractions. Tea was served, and in the evening a Concert was given. A well attended Dance was held in the Schoolroom, and supper was provided under the direction of Miss M. Turner. The sum raised was £135.12s.6d.  
(June26th 1928 – BG)

**ABBOTSHAM**

Abbotsham Church is old and grey

We all go there to sing and pray

Except the folk who stay away

They have no time (or so they say).

Years ago when the world was new

Churches were scarce or very few

But what should all of us do today

Without a Church where we can pray.

Babies we christen near yonder door

Young folks get married, both rich and poor

The dead we take to their last long sleep

The Abbotsham Church its watch doth keep.

In this old world of ours today

Buildings grow old and wear away

The wind blows round and the damp creeps in

To let all decay would be a sin

The folks of this parish all agree

They never will rest such a sight to see

To mend their church they will all work

With hearty zest, and none may shirk”.

(June 26th 1928 - BG).

**HAYFIELD ACCIDENT.**

A verdict of “accidental death” was returned by the District Coroner at an

Inquest at Eastington Farm, Lapford on Friday on Herbert Charles Cloke,

aged 15, who resided at the farm, and was employed there. The deceased’s mother was a widow who lived at Abbotsham with a younger son. The deceased had fallen off a haycart, and death was due to a broken neck.

His father was killed in the Great War. The funeral took place at the Parish Church, Abbotsham, and conspicuous among the mourners were eight boys of the village who were former companions of the deceased - Kenneth Shute, Alan Moase, Harold Withecombe, Fred Davis, Donald Tucker, Lovis Easton, Sidney Bray and Arthur Jackman, accompanied by their mistress Miss S.D.Beer. During the service they sang, “Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep” with  
great feeling.

(July 3rd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Leonard Withecombe, a scholar at Abbotsham Church of England School has

been successful in obtaining a scholarship for Bideford Grammar School for 6 years. He is the youngest son of Mr Withecombe of Cockington, and is only 10 years of age. He is the first boy to win a scholarship from this school.

(August 14th 1928 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On August 9th 1928 at Abbotsham Church by the Rev. Preb. Emlyn-Jones,

assisted by Rev, du Cane - John Herbert Turner of Kyambu, Kenya, son of

the late J.H. Turner of Molland - to Dorothea Mary, only daughter of the late Rev. Richard Turner, Vicar of Barnstaple.

(August 21st 1928 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On August 27th 1928 - John Henry Phillips at Londonderry (late Winsford)

aged 69. To be interred at Abbotsham Church tomorrow.

(August 21st 1928 - BG).

Concerning the death of John Henry Phillips - he was a well known and

respected agricultural and hunting person. He farmed at Winsford for

upwards of 30 years, and his son Harry took over 12 months ago. He was a

member of an old North Devon farming family, and as a young man he was in

the North Devon Hussars. He was originally of Tawstock. In 1882 with the

optimism and determination of youth he left for Australia, where for seven

years he and his wife roughed it in a way little imagined by the flourishing band of farmers who now cultivate the land where little short of half a century ago, he underwent all the trials, set backs and eventual success of the early pioneer. His first domicile was a grass hut. As a result when he returned to this country, Mr Phillips was the first successful cultivator of sugar beet in North Devon. He was a keen follower of the Stevenstone Hounds. He was a judge of dairy produce, and a staunch supporter of the Bideford & District Horse Show. The funeral will take place at Abbotsham Church tomorrow.

(August 21st 1928- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Miss Phyllis B. Moase, pupil of Abbotsham Elementary School, who won a

scholarship tenable at Edgehill Girls College, has been accepted at

Southlands Training College as a student for the teachers certificate.

(September 25th 1928 - BG).

**DEATH OF MR H. PHILLIPS.**

News of the death early on Friday morning of Mr Harry Phillips of Winsford

Farm came as a surprise and shock. About two weeks ago he sprained his  
knee, and complications set in. He was born just over 46 years ago, and

follows very closely on the death of his father.

(October 2nd 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

The women’s section of the Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion will open

its bi-weekly sewing parties this week, and will make garments for the Efford Colony, Plymouth. Last season the proceeds of a Concert and Dance

realised over £11, and this was also sent.

(October 9th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Abbotsham Rifle Club annual meeting received the certificate of approval of

the new range, and it was decided to commence shooting forthwith. Mr H.A.

Lomas was elected President, and the Rev du Cane as the Vice President.

(October 30th 1928 - BC).

**LATE MR A.H. BOYD.**

Many fellow members of the Royal North Devon Golf Club attended the

funeral at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday of Mr Archibald Henry Boyd

whose death at the age of 77 occurred at Belle Vue House, near Bideford.

(November 6th 1928 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH HALL.**

A Fancy Dress Dance was held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday ¡n aid of the Hall Fund, and was very well attended, there being a large number from

surrounding districts. There was quite 150 present. Various prizes were

given.

Juniors - 1. “Farmer Giles” - Master Donald Tucker; 2. “Brigand Chief” - Master Freddie Davies; 3. “Dutch Boy” - Master Kenneth Friendship.

Ladies - 1. “Safety First”, Miss G. Barnacott; 2. “Dutch Lady”, Miss Conway; 3. “Gipsy Girl”, Miss Prouse.

Gentlemen. 1. “Froth Blower”, Mr Pascoe; 2. “Artillery Officer”, (Mr A). Music was provided by the Bideford “Shake Your Feet” Orchestra. Mr Pigeon ably carried out the duties as M.C.

(February 12th 1929 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**.

On February 14th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham - Thomas - son of Mr and Mrs T.

Bellew of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham to Mollie Louise, daughter of the late

R.E.L. Hookway Esq of Westward Ho.

(Febwary 19th 1929 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 3rd at Coombe, Abbotsham, suddenly , Anne Frances Turner,

eldest daughter of the late William Turner of The Barton, Bideford.

(March 5th 1929 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The death of Mrs Louisa S.C. Ridge took place at Moreton Cottage,

Abbotsham on February 24th at the age of 86 years. Her late husband Mr

William Ridge had been a valued and trusted official on the Stucley Estate for a great number of years, and he died about eight years ago. She had been an invalid, and had kept to her bed for the last six years. The funeral took place at Abbotsham Church.

(March 5th 1929 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of Miss Anne Frances Turner rook place at Abbotsham Parish

Church on Wednesday. The grave situated between the graves of her two

brothers - the Rev. R. Turner and W.H. Turner, was beautifully lined with

moss and snowdrops by Mr R. Blackmore (gardener) and Mr A. Glover (sexton).

(March 12th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral of Mr Frederick Thomas Hamlyn whose death occurred at the

Village, Abbotsham, at the age of 59 years on Monday of last week took

place at Abbotsham on Wednesday.

(April 9th 1929 - BG).

**LOCAL AUCTION.**

On Tuesday last Mr Cock offered at public auction at Friendship’s Hotel,

Bideford, two fields near Buckleigh Cross, Abbotsham. A field of just over 5 acres was sold to Mr Thomas Bellew for £280, and a field of just over 3 acres to Mr Ernest Taylor for £170.

(April 16th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

William Cork of Adjavin Farm, a scholar attending Abbotsham Church of

England School has obtained a scholarship for Bideford Grammar School.

The school mistress is to be congratulated.

(June 11th 1929- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

On Thursday the wedding was solemnised at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mr

William Harris and Miss Nora Bluett. Among the numerous beautiful

presents was a Queen Anne silver tea pot from the choir and ringers of

Abbotsham Parish Church; a handsome mahogany clock suitably inscribed

from the Post Master and Staff at Bideford Post Office; a set of carvers and spoons from the garden staff at Moreton, and an Old English cut glass set from the Bideford Exchange.

(June 18th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

Members of the women’s section of the British Legion at Abbotsham have

again opened their winter session of work, which the major part is for the

benefit of the Efford Colony at Plymouth. In order to augment the funds a

long night dance was held in the Parish Hall on October 16th. The “Blue  
Orpheus Band” from Bideford provided the music.

(November 5th 1929- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On October 30th at Abbotsham Church - Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs

Thomas Bellew - to Annie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Boon of Northam.

(November 12th 1929 - BG).