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1382

One Hundred Years Ago

Friday, 16 March, 1888

ANDOVER: A taste of the blizzard:

ANDOVER on Sunday shared with the surrounding country the storm which gave one an idea of the blizzard as known in America. The wind blew a perfect hurricane, tearing down shutters from the fronts of some of the shops in the High Street and breaking windows; while loose tiles and slates were torn from the roofs, and in one instance at least, at the house near the Lady's Bridge, the thatch was blown off and the chimney thrown down.

In other parts of the town the roofs were damaged and trees were uprooted, reports from outside speaking of the latter form of damage being pretty general. Fortunately no damage to life or limb is reported as the result, though as detailed by our Stockbridge correspondent, the evening train from Southampton had a very narrow escape from destruction, and the smashed windows were on Monday a great attraction to the curious, who flocked in large numbers to the Junction Station.

One of the walls of Mr Gue's garden, about 60ft long and six feet high was blown down, and the wall at Criclade has suffered; while a portion of the chimney of the house near the corn mill fell through the roof.

The Stockbridge correspondent reported that just before the evening train (5.40) was due, one tree standing just below the town was blown across the line, the consequence being that the tops of the branches came in contact with the passing train, and smashed every window from one end to the other on the near side.

[Last October's devastating storms are still fresh in our minds but blizzards and hurricanes are always bad news. Andover's old Norman St Mary's Church had a lead covered timber spire, 80ft high which fell down in a gale of wind on 11 August, 1705. Apparently this had survived the two days and nights of the Great Storm of 1703 when howling winds damaged almost every building in the country. 400 windmills were flattened and the Bishop of Bath and Wells was among 8,000 killed, when his house collapsed on him. At Hampton Court every tree in the park was brought down.]

Advertisement:

ANDOVER UNION Porter and Assistant Matron wanted. The Guardians of this Union hereby give Notice that they will, at their meeting on 29 March proceed to the election of a Porter and Assistant Matron for the Union Workhouse. Candidates must be married couples, without incumbrance, and between the age of 25 and 40 years. In addition to his ordinary duties the Porter will be required to undertake the shaving and hair-cutting of the

£18 that left them with a balance at the end of the year's working of £161, which was most satisfactory.

Business concluded, refreshments were served and an entertainment occupied the rest of the evening, those taking part in it being: Miss Maud Clark, Mr 'Bob' Bell, Mr Stan Goddard, Mrs Viney, Miss Roma Hyde, Mr Rodway (and his accordion) and Miss Norma Fox.

[The Hospital Contributory Scheme was a voluntary scheme in the days before the National Health Service whereby for a few coppers a week contributors were assured of a stay in hospital without attendant bills. Other small benefits were also paid on the lines of other Family Societies].

LONGSTOCK: Re-Opening after Renovation:

ON WEDNESDAY evening a large company assembled in the Longstock Methodist Church to celebrate the re-opening after its renovation and the installation of electric light. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs W. Pearl of Abbott's Ann. Mrs Pearl expressed delight at the completion of the scheme, and the beautifying of God's House.

Mr G. Sims gave a report of the renovation scheme. He added that, on reading over an old plan, he found an account of the opening of the church, 59 years ago this month, with a striking appeal for help to the members of the Circuit, worded thus, 'Who dare refuse a shilling to the Lord'. He congratulated Mr Prangley on the splendid way in which the renovation had been achieved. The total cost amounted to £48, and he hoped the appeal for help would meet with a generous response.

Cinema: The Odeon, Junction Road, Andover was screening 'French Leave' starring Betty Lynne and Edmund Breon and 'Kid Galahad' starring Edward G. Robinson and Bette Davis. At the New Theatre, Andover, 'Sunset in Vienna' starring Tullio Carminati and Lilli Palmer and 'Bulldog Drummond at Bay' starring John Lodge and Dorothy Mackaill was being screened.

Advertisements:

The celebrated 'Swallow' raincoat. These stylish and efficient coats are made in the slip-on shape and are lined throughout with the same weatherproof material price 21/- (£1.05). — Parsons and Hart, Waterloo House, Andover.

ANDOVER MARKET REPORT. Mr Herbert Johnson reports increased supplies were to hand: First grade eggs and specials 1/2 to 1/3 (6p), pullet and seconds 1/- to 1/1½ (5½p), duck eggs to 1/3 (6p), all at per dozen; dressed poultry, chicken 3/- (15p) to 4/- (20p) each, boiling fowls 2/- (10p) to 3/6 (17½p); dairy butter 1/6 (7½p) to 1/9 (9p) lb; cream 4½d (2p) to 6d (2½p) carton; apples to 3d (1p) lb; wild rabbits to 8d (3p) each.

A ROMAN road from Winchester to Sarum runs along the ridge south of Broughton and the existence of tumuli — barrows — attests to a very long period of settlement and occupation.

A pig of lead, two feet long and 156 lb in weight, dating back to the reign of the Emperor Nero (AD 54-68) was found in the village in 1783, having possibly fallen off a Roman baggage-waggon.

Dovecotes, or pigeon

By George Brickell

houses have been built in many parts of the world since before Roman times. They provided a ready supply of fresh meat in the days when lacking suitable fodder and the introduction of turnips, kale etc for winter feed, flocks and herds were culled at the onset of winter and salted down.

Early in the 14th Century the Rector was, unusually given an

endowment of a columbarium, or dovecote — such early examples of factory-farming were usually reserved for Lords of the Manor, both Temporal and Spiritual. The structure was rebuilt in 1684, and the interior mechanism inside became a Heritage project for the local history group in 1984, who completely reconstructed it.

A circular dovecote evolved in the Middle Ages, as the onerous task of tending the nesting boxes could be expedited by the use of a revolving ladder. A massive central post of ash or elm, with a ladder attached, known as a potence, was so designed to be easily pivoted by a man on the ladder.

Because of their exceptionally short breeding cycle pigeons can provide an almost constant supply of fresh meat. Every six weeks for practically the whole year they lay a pair of eggs, hatch them, and fatten up their two 1lb young on pre-digested food. The cycle is then repeated for a seven-year breeding cycle.

The circular structure standing in St Mary's churchyard is brick built with a conical tiled roof, supporting a turret giving access for the pigeons. There are 482 'L' shaped nesting boxes set in the thickness of the wall. Thus 482 pairs of pigeons, feeding on neighbouring crops could produce an astonishing 3½ tons of meat each year at no cost to its owner!



BROUGHTON DOVECOTE: Contains 482 nesting boxes NOP