

Harry Evelyn Kelly

**Isle of Wight County Press
15 September 1945**

NEWPORT MAN DIES AFTER PRAWNING.

Body Found on Cliff At Thorness.

Mr. Harry Evelyn Kelly (68), of Kelson, Wilver-road, Newport, was found dead on the cliff between Thorness and Gurnard on Saturday. He left his home about 3 p.m. on Friday week to go prawning at Thorness, and as he did not return a search was made by the police and friends. At about 6.15 a.m. on Saturday his dead body was discovered by a neighbour, Mr. H. J. Vine, of Veland, Wilver-road, Newport, lying half way up the cliff. Mr. Kelly had been employed as assistant brewer at the Royal Brewery, Newport, for many years, and was formerly a member of the Newport Conservative Club, being a keen snooker player.

The Inquest.

The Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq) held the inquest in St. Faith's-hall, Cowes, on Monday, when Insp. J. Winnard was present for the Police.

Evidence of identification was given by Corpl. Lionel Frederick Graham Kelly, of the R.A.O.C. He said he last saw his father in June, when he appeared to be in good health. He often went prawning at Thorness Ledge.

Dr. G. M. Balfour said that at 6.45 a.m. on Saturday he was requested by the Police to go to where the deceased had been found. Deceased was in a kneeling position at the top of a very steep bank, which was a part of the cliff, and had probably been dead all night. Later in the day he made a post-mortem examination, which showed that the cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage, atheroma of the cerebral arteries being a contributory cause. Replying to the Coroner, witness said it was quite likely that, owing to the condition of the deceased's arteries, the sudden effort of climbing the steep place after the exertion of prawning had brought on the haemorrhage.

Harold James Vine, a storekeeper employed by Messrs. Saunders-Roe, and a neighbour of the deceased, said that at about 11.15 p.m. on Friday he was informed that Mrs. Kelly was perturbed because her husband had not returned home. He went in a car with Mr. Lockhart to Gurnard Marsh, where they found deceased's car. They informed the Police that Mr. Kelly had not returned, and assisted them in the search. They were unable to find the deceased, and suspended their efforts at about 2.15 a.m. He and Mr. Lockhart resumed the search at daybreak, and at 6.15 a.m. they found the body on the cliffs near Baxter's Ledge. There was a basket of shrimps near his right shoulder. It was a pretty steep climb from the beach to where the deceased was found. In their search during the night they had passed within a few feet of the body, but owing to the darkness, had not seen it.

The Coroner returned a verdict of death from natural causes, and expressed sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, a short service in the Carisbrooke Cemetery Chapel being conducted by the Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. H. Ewbank, R.D.). The mourners were Mrs. Kelly (widow), Mr. G. Kelly (son), Mr. and Mrs. A. Kelly (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. M. Frost, Mr. V. Watson, Mrs. E. V. Watson, and Mr. A. W. Lockhart.

Others present were Mr. W. Attrill, Mr. J. Mew (representing the board of directors of Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton, and Co., Ltd.), and the following representatives of various departments of the firm; Mr. C. D. Seabrooke (malting staff), Mr. E. H. Abraham (office staff), and Mr. A. E. Gatehouse.

The interment was in Carisbrooke Cemetery, Messrs. H. and F. Damp carrying out the arrangements.

Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>