

Arthur Odell

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 27 November 1943

SUDDEN DEATH OF PARKHURST PRISON STEWARD

Mr. Arthur Odell, aged 62, of Moira Lodge, Carisbrooke, who was well known in the Newport district as the steward of Parkhurst Prison and churchwarden at Carisbrooke, passed away with tragic suddenness on Tuesday morning. Mr. Odell had received news that his eldest sister's husband had passed away rather suddenly in London, and on Tuesday morning he and his wife left their home to go to London to arrange for the funeral. While they were waiting in the roadway outside their home for a bus to take them to Newport Mr. Odell collapsed. Dr. Heathcote was in attendance in a few minutes, but life was extinct. The Deputy-Coroner ordered a post-mortem examination and as this showed that death was due to heart disease no inquest was necessary. Profound sympathy is felt with his widow (formerly Miss Rita Cooper, who is well known as a singer) in her tragically sudden bereavement after only about five years of married life. Mr. Odell's first wife died about seven years ago, and he leaves one son who is serving in the Army and was formerly borough surveyor of Chelmsford.

Mr. Odell was held in the highest esteem both by his colleagues in the Prison Service and his many other friends. His quiet ability, rich sense of humour, and eagerness to lend a hand in support of any good work were appreciated by all who knew him. He was the senior prison steward in the service of the Home Office and would have retired two years ago but for the war. He joined the service as a clerk at Parkhurst in 1901 and for some years was a keen and skilful member of the Rookwood Cricket Club. In 1919 he was promoted to steward at Norwich Prison, and after holding that position there and at Lincoln and Birmingham Prisons, he returned to Parkhurst as steward in 1928 and had continued there since. He was a devoted worshipper at and worker for St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, where for many years he audited the church accounts, had been churchwarden for the last two years, and was secretary of the parochial charities. He was also a member of the Newport Rotary Club. The funeral was at Carisbrooke Church yesterday (Friday) afternoon.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 4 December 1943

CARISBROOKE

The funeral of Mr Arthur Odell, churchwarden of the Parish Church and steward of Parkhurst Prison, who died suddenly on the previous Tuesday, was on Friday week, the service being in the Parish Church and the interment at the Cemetery. The Vicar (the Rev. H. Ewbank, R.D.) officiated, assisted by the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley (vicar of Arreton), and Mr. G. R. Barrett (organist) accompanied the deceased's favourite hymn "Thine for ever" and played Walford Davies' "God be in my head" at the close. In a tribute to Mr. Odell, the Vicar spoke of his devotion to the church and the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in the Prison Service and friends in the district. He described him as a man who showed neither fear nor favour who could be very outspoken if the need arose, yet with a kindly, generous heart and a keen sense of humour. His fellow warders (Messrs. E. C. Neat and H. Phillips) carried their crepe-draped wands of office at the head of the procession.

The principal mourners were the widow, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Odell (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. John Odell (brother), Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cooper (father and mother-in-law), Mr. Alan A. Morrell (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Martin Moore, Mr. and Mrs. R. Philpot, Mr. and Mrs. John Dufton, Mrs. Glover, and Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Gracey. The following members of the Prison Service acted as bearers: Principal Officers Cannell and Richardson and Officers Jones, Maddocks, Parsons, and Andrews. Other colleagues of the Prison Service present were Mr. Gilbert Hair (deputy-governor of Parkhurst and Camp Hill Prison, also representing the Governor, Capt. F. L. Stevenson), Dr. J. L. Walker (medical officer), the Rev. F. D. Short (chaplain), Messrs. E. Packer, R. E. Pascoe, and C. J. Samuel (Parkhurst clerical staff), Officer H. New (stores department), Principal Officer Richardson (also representing Mr. Clark, of Lincoln Prison) and Principal Officer Hayden. Others present, among them many former colleagues of Mr. Odell in the Prison Service and fellow members of the Newport Rotary Club...

Only main mourners transcribed

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