

TAPLOW

On Monday last the Village of Taplow was the scene of much mirth and merry making in commemoration of the marriage of the Right Hon Lady Elizabeth Fitzmaurice (the eldest daughter of the Right Hon the Earl of Orkney) to S Leo Schuster Esq., of Roehampton, which was solemnized in London on Monday last. The Hon Lady having sent a handsome sum of money to G Norrington Esq (late Steward to the Earl of Orkney), to be disposed of in celebration of the happy event. A committee was formed of the following persons: - The Rev C Whately, R.D., Messrs Norrington, Rance, Rutland Junr. and Senr., Castle and Langley to carry out in the best possible manner the object in view, and it is our pleasure to be able to state that their exertions were crowned with complete success. At an early hour and at intervals during the day, merry peals were sent forth from the Church tower, which were bombastically responded to from one of the Earl of Orkney's large brass cannons, brought and superintended by Quartermaster Bonsey from Burnham. Our respected rector who is ever anxious to promote the interest and happiness of his parishioners, threw open his pleasure grounds and meadow for the occasion in which were put up three spacious rick cloths, under whose friendly shade the whole of the parishioners were invited to a good substantial dinner and tea, the school children were also bountifully supplied with tea, bread and butter and cake. After dinner, a possession was formed in the following order, and marched through the Village back to the meadow again- Messrs Castle and Harris, bearing two large flags; the Rev C Whately and Churchwardens, Mr V Rance, overseer, Messrs Clarke, Norrington, Springall and Webb, the band of the Royal Taplow troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, Messrs Briginshaw and Williams, with javelins and banners, the National and Infant Schools, with their respected master and mistress, Mr J Wright and Miss Robins, carrying a variety of flags and banners on which were appropriate mottoes and devices. Lastly came all those who had sat down to dinner making one long and grand procession. Tea now followed, and then the following sports were gone through in a most energetic and exhilarating manner viz: - hurdle racing, jumping in sacks, flat race over 20 yards, ditto under 20, boy races, for knives etc., girl races for bonnets etc., boy's race backwards, and to carry one. The treacle bowl. Winding the string. The barrow wheel race. Climbing the greasy pole. Kiss in the ring, to the whole of which were liberal prizes awarded. During the afternoon, the band performed, with great taste and precision, several selections from The Rose of Castile, Trovatore etc. The Church Choir assisted by a few members of the Maidenhead and Taplow Musical Society, performed several madrigals and glees in a very masterly style. The whole of the musical performances gave great satisfaction, and reflects the greatest credit on those engaged. During the afternoon the whole of the gentry in the neighbourhood were present, which added greatly to the brilliancy of the assemblage. At the conclusion of the racing jumping etc., dancing commenced with a Polka followed by Quadrilles etc., until dark when the National Anthem closed the scene of one of Taplow's happiest days. Mr Norrington threw open his barn for dancing in the evening, and many availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered, which was kept up with great spirit to the strains of Messrs Honor and Hancock, until eleven o'clock. Two triumphal arches were erected, leading to the meadow, by Messrs Rutland, Briggs and Springall, which had a very pretty appearance, they being decorated with several flags, flowers etc. A peal from the bells at eleven o'clock brought to a close a day that will long be remembered in Old Taplow with great pleasure, hoping that the happy event they have celebrated may for many years be attended with every blessing and happiness.

One can picture this happy scene with William, no doubt proudly and with excitement, carrying his javeline and banner.

And now we move forward twelve years to find in the Maidenhead Advertiser of Wednesday 27th April 1870 this announcement of an auction sale of a splendid lot of choice bedding-out plants under the instructions of the Proprietor (Mr William Briginshaw) at the 'Queen's Head Inn' Taplow. What exactly was going on here? A closing down of some of the stovehouses at the 'Grange' coinciding with William taking over the 'Queen's Head'? A dual occupation involving a nursery? Or just a sale on behalf of someone else? Undoubtedly quite a large operation for the advertisement appeared for several weeks prior to the sale and a sale catalogue was produced.

Bedding-out Plants.TAPLOW, BUCKS.

MR. PREECE begs to announce that he is instructed by the Proprietor (Mr. William Briginshaw) to Sell by Auction, in convenient lots, upon the Premises, the Queen's Head Inn, Taplow, on Tuesday, May 17th. 1870, at 2 for 3 o'clock, a splendid lot of CHOICE BEDDING-OUT PLANTS, in great variety, and in excellent condition.

On view the morning of Sale. Catalogues in due time, at the Place of Sale, and at the Offices of the Auctioneer, (next the London and County Bank), High-street, Maidenhead.

District Intelligence.TAPLOW.

On Saturday the decorative painters and upholsterers, in the employ of Messrs. Eastidge, builders, Uxbridge, took themselves from their daily toils to the Queen's Head Inn, at this place, kept by Mr. Briginshaw, for a day's recreation and pure enjoyment, leaving, no doubt, all business matters at home. The place mentioned is but little known to such parties as those, as far as Uxbridge is concerned. It is, however, much frequented by the employes of the best London firms. The party left Uxbridge at an early hour, going thro' h Fulmer, and the famous Barnham Bochet, and after breaking the journey in viewing the 'old stamps' for an hour, proceeded through Despmon, the seat of the Right Hon. G. Fortescue, and passing along the estates of Lord Boston and the Marquis of Westminster, came to Taplow common, and again halted at the Feathers Inn, where they lunched, and after an hour's ride they arrived at the Queen's Head, where a most excellent dinner had been provided, to which all sat down after creating an appetite by playing at cricket. The chair was taken by the foreman (Mr. Ronald), facol by Mr. Collins, who was instrumental in bringing the party to a place from which so much pleasure was derived. The proceedings were enlivened by vocal and instrumental music of no mean order, and the party afterwards took a boat for a ride on the Thames for a few hours, at the conclusion of which they returned to the Queen's Head to tea, and, after a few hours' conviviality mounted their seats for the return journey, arriving at home at eleven o'clock. The highest encomiums were passed on host Briginshaw for the very capital way in which he catered for his guests.

The next year, again in the Maidenhead Advertiser, appeared in their issue of Wednesday 13th September 1871 this delightful account of an outing the previous Saturday which ended up at the 'Queen's Head'. I'll bet there were a few thick heads the next morning but this was Sunday and although a few faces were probably missing in Church no doubt they were all sufficiently recovered to be back at work on Monday sharp on time.

The 'Queen's Head' was certainly an important centre in Taplow. A place for good food, good beer, good music and conviviality, not to mention Court Room for the Manor Courts and sale room for bedding-out plants!

Fearing that this copy from very poor original newsprint will not be easily read I provide a typescript overleaf.