

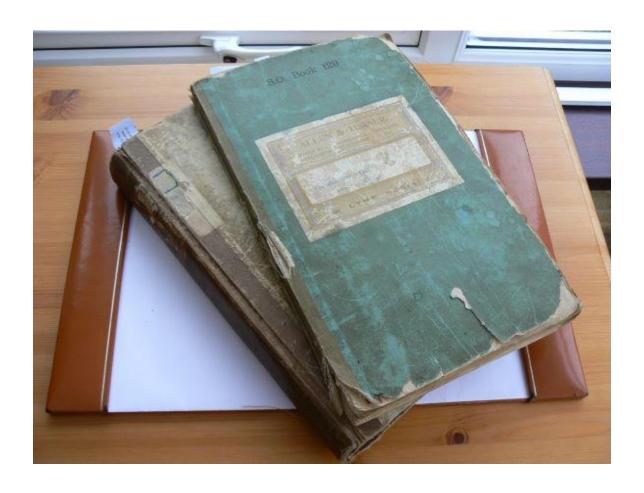
## **Newspaper Cuttings Scrapbooks – Van H Allen**

## Compiled by Graham Davies



Van Hobman Allen (1893-1953) was well-known in Lyme Regis from the 1920s to 1950s. He was a business man with a wide range of interests and skills.

Two scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings, compiled by Van Allen of his work for local & national newspapers, are in the possession of his granddaughter Mrs Ann Roberts, who has allowed Graham Davies to produce this part copy for the Lyme Regis Museum (2006) and for the Research Team's website (2023). Many of the articles, or part thereof, are recorded *verbatim*.



Our representative for Lyme Regis and district is Mr Van H Allen of Coombe Street. He will be glad to receive notice of forthcoming meetings etc., and also to receive orders for copies of the "Western Weekly News & Mercury". (13.01.1923)

The annual old folks' dinner was held at the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis, and the efforts of the Mayor (Mr H Ellis), Messrs S Harris, W R Wallis, H R Morgan, A Wiscombe, J E Hewitt, H E Foxwell, and Mr W Hardy (secretary), who comprised the Management Committee, were rewarded by the success achieved. Old folk over 60 and widows of the borough to the number of 90 were the guests for the evening. They always look forward to this annual treat which is made possible by the kindness of their fellow townspeople. The room and tables were nicely decorated, a splendid dinner being served by Mrs & Miss Slater. About a dozen dinners were sent to people unable to be present through illness. The music by Mrs Burge during the meal was greatly appreciated, and songs were sung by Misses S Foxwell, Elsie Stretch, Messrs F Chapple, G Chapple, J Gage, F G Isbell, A Hallett & G Brown.

The Mayor, who presided, presented each man with a quantity of tobacco and each woman with a canister of tea. Each guest also received as a gift from the Mayor a souvenir car

d bearing the borough arms and an appropriate message.

The Secretary, on behalf of the company, addressed the following message to H.M the King:- The old folks of Lyme, assembled at dinner, beg to wish your Majesty health and happiness in 1923, and trust that the forthcoming marriage of the Duke of York will fulfil your heart's desire.

The following message was received in reply:- The King & Queen cordially thank the old people of Lyme Regis, assembled tonight, for their kind greetings and their good wishes on the occasion of their son's engagement.

The National Anthem ended the proceedings, which were enjoyed.

(Western Weekly News - 03.02.1923)

The winter term of Mrs Raymond's drill and dancing classes at Lyme Regis has been supported with enthusiasm, and on Tuesday evening, at the Victoria Hall, an exhibition was given for the benefit of parents & friends who were invited to witness the progress of the little ones. Eurhythmics, the latest method of mind & body development, formed the leading feature of the classes, and all who watched these fascinating movements enjoyed them. In the ballroom dancing some of the tiny tots astonished their elders by their splendid exhibition.

(Western Weekly News - 03.02.1923)

A successful "social" and a supper were held at the Cosy by the Lyme Regis Post Office staff. It was organised to celebrate the arrival of the new postmistress, Miss M D Cox, and to bid farewell to Miss Muriel Higgins & Mr S Parsons, two assistants, who are leaving for duty elsewhere. Mr Long, who has been a postman in Lyme Regis for 38 years, in welcoming Miss Cox, pointed this was the first occasion upon which the staff had shared in any social event.

(Western Weekly News - 03.02.1923)

Dissatisfaction is expressed among Lyme Regis unemployed at the removal of the Labour Exchange from Lyme Regis.

The Exchange was first transferred to Seaton, but recently the office has been moved to Axminster. The men contend that this will force them to walk a distance of 12 miles to draw their benefit.

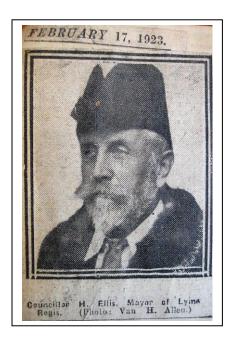
The number of Lyme Regis unemployed at present is about 30.

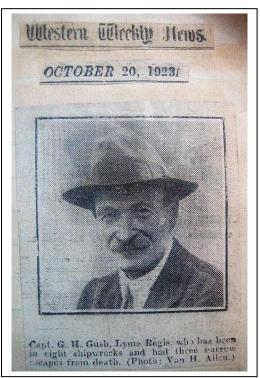
(Western Weekly News - 03.02.1923)

Mr R G Radford of Broad Street Lyme Regis, whilst driving a motor lorry in Station Road Axminster, met with an accident through the skidding of the lorry which came into contact with a lamp post, and smashed one of the wheels.

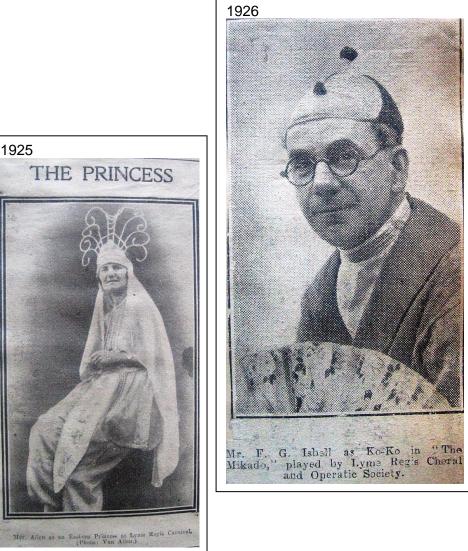
(Western Weekly News - 10.02.1923)











1925

ALDERMAN J. BRAGG, Mayor of Lyme Regis. Mr A J Woodroffe, Commissioner for Boy Scouts, No. 9 District, Ware, Uplyme,

Devon, writes:-

"In many towns & villages of East Devon the boys are anxious and eager to become Scouts, but are without leaders. Here, then, is the way to help your country by giving up a little of your own time to helping the present boys to be loyal to God, their King & country, and the opportunity of having recorded in the pages of the Book of Life that work for Him that must be surely leading our boys to God. Will you help us?" (Western Weekly News - 10.02.1923)

Scoutmaster J E Hill.

Scouts had their room over the Drill hall.

Recently A Rover patrol (boys over 17) had been started, and was already a great success. (Western Weekly News - 17.02.1923)

We congratulate Mr Emmett, of the Drill Hall Kinema, Lyme Regis, on securing for exhibition this weekend the world famous film "From Manger to Cross", which was shown to 600,000 people at the Albert Hall, London, in Dublin, Glasgow and other cities, and is now touring country with great success. (Western Weekly News - 24.02.1923)

Mrs Mills of Monmouth Street died at the age of 88. She was one of the unfortunate people who were burnt out when about 17 years ago a whole row of houses were destroyed by fire in George's Court. (Western Weekly News - 24.02.1923)

The thanks of the inhabitants are due to Mr A J Woodroffe JP. CC., who has for many years endeavoured to obtain a secondary school for Lyme Regis. Through his energies the scheme is maturing and the material for the school will shortly be placed on the site with, it is believed, a guarantee of opening September next. Much of the material is to come from Swanage. (Western Weekly News - 24.02.1923)

The excessive wet weather of late has been the cause of the few tons of clay slipping from Major Palmer's land on the Parade, Lyme Regis, and it is feared another slip will follow. It is some years since the last slip occurred on the Parade when near the same spot several hundred tons of earth fell onto the Parade. (Western Weekly News - 24.02.1923)

We are indebted to Mr E T Stoward for the rainfall records for February. Rain was measured at Horn, Lyme Regis, on 23 days during the month, the total being 7.35 inches. Records show this to be the wettest month at Lyme Regis for 42 years.

(Western Weekly News - 10.03.1923)

Alderman Harris referred to the bad postal services in Lyme Regis. He mentioned it took two days for a letter to reach Charmouth a couple of miles away. (Western Weekly News - 17.03.1923)

At the annual general meeting of subscibers to the Lyme Regis & District Cottage Hospital, Mr A J Woodroffe presiding, the report showed that 69 in-patients had received treatment during the year, and the out-patients totalled 176, which necessitated about 2300 visits.

(Western Weekly News - 17.03.1923

The Lyme Regis Advertising Committee invited a number of prominent London & provincial journalists to Lyme Regis last weekend to promote the town as a health resort, more especially as a splendid winter resort. The following accommodated the visitors:-

Alexandra Hotel (Mr Hinton)
The Three Cups Hotel (Mr White)
Royal Lion Hotel (Mrs & Miss Slater)
St Michael's Hotel (Mr W Hardy)

Stile House (Mr Leeming)

Mr F Watson, Mrs & Miss Slater, and Mrs Stapleforth provided cars for the journalists on Saturday morning to drive around the district.

The Tudor Restaurant (Messrs Leaver & Hudson) was the centre of attraction on the Saturday evening when the proprietors invited the visitors to a banquet.

(Western Weekly News - 24.03.1923)

Lyme Regis Parish Magazine paid its way in 1922, this being the first time for many years. (March 24th 1923)

Ernest Eli Hallett, of Cod Buildings, mason, and Tom Reginald Gollop, of Mill Green, were jointly charged at the Lyme Regis Police Court with stealing, on March 30, 10 yards of wire netting, valued 5s., the property of Robert Hallett, of Lower Ware Farm, and also with stealing a "tame" fowl, valued 7s. 6d., the property of George Collier of Hook Farm, Uplyme. -PC Norris proved the case.-Prisoners pleaded guilty.- In fining Hallett £5 the Chairman said he had very narrowly escaped being sent to prison. Gollop was fined £1. The fowl was brought to the Court and, it was stated, chuckled every time the word "fowl" was mentioned. (Western Weekly News - 07.04.1923)

There were unusual scenes in Broad Street, Lyme Regis, on Saturday, when the Axe Vale Harriers met outside the Royal Lion Hotel, from 800 to 1,000 people being present. An old resident told our representative that, although he had lived in Lyme Regis 78 years, he could not recall the hounds having met in the town before. Breakfast was served in the Royal Lion, and subsequently the hounds had a good run, but there was no kill.

(Western Weekly News - 07.04.1923)

Mrs Raymond's company, "The Lyme-ites", presented, for a second time, the light comedy, "Brown Sugar", at the Drill Hall, Lyme Regis.

Cast: L Bray, Miss Ada Rowe, Miss Nellie Case, Miss Dorothy Austin, Mrs Frank Watson, Messrs Frank Watson, Horace Camplin, Herbert Cozens, Gordon Baker, Stanley Browne & George Prosser.

The stage was furnished & decorated by Messrs Northover & Gilbert of Broad Street, and Mr L D Haddon supplied some of the coats & dresses.

(Western Weekly News - 14.04.1923

A runaway car collided with the iron gates at the entrance to Pitt House. Western Weekly News - 14.04.1923)

Lamberts Castle Races are to be run in June under the National Pony Turf Club rules, this being the 148th meeting. It is one of the oldest race meetings in England. (Western Weekly News - 21.04.1923)

A new consignment of books has been received at the Lyme Regis Free Library. The library will be opened on Friday in each week, commencing forthwith, books being issued to juveniles from 5.30 pm and adults from 8 pm.

(Western Weekly News - 21.04.1923)

A steam lorry, belonging to Messrs Mitchell, Toms & Co of Chard, skidded on the very wet surface of Silver Street, Lyme Regis, and smashed into the railings outside Woodville. (Western Weekly News - 21.04.1923)

The many friends of Mr M H Neale, the popular president of the Lyme Regis Town Club, will be pleased to learn that his youngest son, Mr W O Neale, has passed the qualifying examination of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr Neale, jun., before coming to Lyme Regis, in May last, to assist his father in his business, was serving in a similar business in Canada, and during the war served with the medical corps of the Canadian Forces.

(Western Weekly News - 21.04.1923)

A rather bad accident befell Miss K Slater of the Royal Lion Hotel, Lyme Regis, when she fell from a horse which she had never before ridden. When near the Nag's Head Inn, in Silver street, the animal became startled, and attempted to make off. Mr Sydney Warren, of the livery stables, who was riding with Miss Slater, succeeded in stopping the horse, but the latter had got on to the pavement, and unfortunately stumbled and threw the rider, who suffered a broken collar bone and ribs. She was quickly attended to by Dr Cook, and she is now progressing satisfactorily.

(Western Weekly News - 28.04.1923)

The death has taken place of nurse Neale, at the age of 86. The deceased, who lived in George's Court, Lyme Regis, was one of the best nurses in the district, and followed her good work for some 40 years. The funeral service took place at the Independent Chapel. Nurse Neale's sister, Mrs Bush, who resided with her in George's Court, is lying seriously ill. (Western Weekly News - 28.04.1923)

Messrs A & F Wiscombe, of Lyme, have secured the contract for the building of the new secondary school, which, it is understood, is to be begun at once.

It has been decided to open the Lyme Swimming Club's bathing season on Sunday.

Bathing tents are becoming numerous on the sea front, but up to the present, owing to the bad weather, there have been few bathers.

(Western Weekly News - 02.06.1923)

The Cosy Cafe caters for Charabanc parties. Accommodation for 400.

Pitt House - Premier Private Hotel. Modern appointments. Tennis. Garage.

Houses & Properties for Sale and to Let - V H Allen, The House Agent, Coombe Street.

(Western Weekly News - 30.06.1923)

## Charm of Lyme Regis

If you wish to make your fortune as an undertaker don't set up in Lyme Regis. You simply will not get any business except, perhaps, your own funeral after a coroner's verdict of "Died of starvation".

There are lots of things which are better in Lyme Regis than anywhere else - its lobsters, its scenery, and its restfulness. This is a curious blend of virtues, perhaps; lobsters and rest do not go very well together - at all events at night time. Its scenery must, I think, be unsurpassed by that of any other place in England. Indeed, as one who has seen the Alps, the Rhine, the English Lakes, the Canadian & Montana Rockies, the expanses of Southern California, the wonderful rivers and forests of Oregon, and the enchanting scenery of the Straits of Fusa, I can recall little to equal that wonderful segment of coastline east of Lyme Regis when viewed from the Cobb on a winter afternoon, with its array of bluff headlands an echelon and its fascinating blend of hues as they are played upon by the beams of the setting sun.

But, after all, the chief merit of this quaint little place, tucked away so snugly among the sheltering hills, is to be found in its curiously dreamy, archaic atmosphere, recalling the days of the old country hall, with its jars of rose leaves and lavender, its wall fruit, the passing mail coach, and the old fashioned harvest. Little of that old time feeling remains in these days of hustle, but of that little Lyme Regis possess a fairly large proportion. And what if, during a few short summer months, the spell is broken by the incursion of modern elements? Does not the contrast but serve to emphasize the real life of the real Lyme.

It is, indeed, during the winter months that the merits of Lyme must be experienced to be appreciated. It is then that the seeker after rest from the never ceasing whirl of the town may come and take his ease. It is then that, without a shiver, he may read in his morning paper of freezing blasts and blizzards elsewhere, or may ramble to his heart's content over hill and dale, which is green all the year round; or take a turn on the golf links while he inhales vitalizing ozone as it blows from off the Channel.

A well-known local doctor says that Lyme Regis has a very excellent winter climate, and it is sheltered from all northern winds. In spring Lyme is the most beautiful place he has seen for its wonderful wild flowers. He has yet to find a more delightful place for people to retire after the strain of life in the city. For visitors, he considered Lyme Regis a unique combination of great natural beauty, rich historical and geological interest, and exceedingly health environments. In a word, Lyme Regis is second to no other seacoast resort in the

clemency of its climate, and it is particularly suitable for all who find it necessary for their health to reside in the South. Lyme is a very excellent resort at any period of the year. (Western Morning News - 22.03.1923)

A London research institution has recently discovered the bacillus acidophilous adontolyticus - the germ responsible for dental decay. Through the courtesy of Messrs Parke, Davis & Co, analytical and manufacturing chemists, London, the public of Lyme Regis & District are afforded the opportunity of viewing this germ through the microscope at Mr M H Neale's pharmacy in Broad street. (Western Weekly News - 09.06.1923)

Lyme Regis - The brighter weather has been the means of enticing many more visitors to the town, and at the weekend a considerable number of charabanc parties spent the day on one of the most pleasant sea fronts in this part of the globe. The famous landslip is again the centre of great attraction, and the wonderful wild flowers are certainly well worth seeing. The odd thing of it is that although bunches upon bunches are gathered daily, there is no sign of the supply diminishing. (The Western Morning News & Mercury - 05.06.1923)

A bazaar on behalf of Lyme Congregational Church was held in the garden of Temple House by permission of Mr & Mrs Geake.

(Western Weekly News - 21.07.1923)

Miss Florence E Stockley, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs J Stockley, of Bow House, Lyme Regis, arrived in Sydney, New South Wales, on 24th July. Two days later she was married to Mr Walter J Eaton White whose family are late of Hazelbury Bryan, Dorset.

(Western Weekly News - 04.08.1923)

A lady and gentleman who had recently arrived in Lyme had the misfortune to be cut off by the tide during the weekend between Lyme and Charmouth. Being informed by a visitor that the tide was going out they strolled along the beach and entered the water. But the tide was running in, and before the bathers knew where they were they were cut off by water. They attracted the attention of a party in a rowing boat, who with much difficulty got the lady into their boat while the gentleman swam round the point to safety. It is hoped this will be a warning to visitors, who should ascertain from local fishermen the state of the tides. (Western Weekly News - 04.08.1923)

The Town Council have agreed to the construction of shelters on the sea front. This will begin next month. The Council have also recently taken over the electric light undertaking. (Western Morning News - 29.08.1923)

It is reported that a first class hotel is to be built on the Lyme sea front during the next few months. If correct this should be the means of providing many men with work during the coming winter. (Western Weekly News - 08.09.1923)

Splendid progress is being made in the building of a new shelter on Lyme Regis sea front. Mr Gollop, of Sherborne Lane, has been appointed night watchman.

The new County Secondary School, in Hill Road, Lyme Regis, was opened for pupils on Monday, when about 50 pupils commenced the term.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Lieutenant of the county, is formally to open the school on 18th October. (Western Weekly News - 29.09.1923)

Otter on Sea Front - There was some excitement at Lyme Regis, Dorset, when an otter was seen prowling about the sea front. Crowds quickly gathered, but the otter was undisturbed until a dog took up the chase. When the animals got into a tight corner, the otter was easily master of the situation. Eventually the animal made tracks up the river Buddle where it was caught.

According to old residents, an otter has never before been caught at Lyme Regis. The present one is a remarkably fine specimen, weighing 13 lbs and having an unusual length.

(Daily Chronicle - 10.10.1923)

Was it a whale - During the past ten days a fish of extraordinary size has been seen off Seaton, Beer, and Lyme Regis. Mr Frank Gollop, of Corporation Terrace, Lyme Regis, with two visitors from London, was conger fishing between Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Just as it was getting dark the party was startled when the mysterious fish came up within 20 yards of their boat and commenced terrific blowing. They were just able to see the huge form of the monster, and all three are convinced it was a whale. (Western Weekly News - 20.10.1923)

Secondary School at Lyme Regis - The opening of a secondary school at Lyme Regis marks a new era of education in the town.

Pleasantly situated on Westmead estate, the school is only a temporary structure, comprising a number of converted army huts, built almost entirely of corrugated iron. By careful arrangement of the huts, however, it has been possible to provide adequate accommodation for at least 120 pupils. There are numerous classrooms, handicraft room, a special block for the teaching of special subjects, a gymnasium, and assembly room. The interiors have been cheerfully decorated, and special heating apparatus has been installed. A spacious playground has been provided, and there are possibilities of extending the facilities for recreation. It is also proposed to erect a house for the headmaster.

The school was erected by Dorset County Council, whose vice-chairman (Mr A J Woodroffe) has been foremost in the undertaking.

(Western Weekly News - October 1923)

Big Landslide - A landslide occurred midway between Lyme Regis & Charmouth during Sunday night, several hundred tons of earth, bushes, and the greater part of an allotment slipping towards the sea. Other large quantities of earth are hanging in the balance, and another landslide is likely to occur at any moment.

For many months the making of an entirely new road between Lyme Regis and Charmouth has been projected. Should another landslide occur it will take away a portion of the main road. Motor omnibuses have been directed to go by another route.

(The Western Morning News & Mercury - 21.10.1923)

A Young Lady's Mishap - During the weekend, Miss Dora Cutler, an employee at the Lyme Regis Post Office, whilst leaving by train for her holidays, had the misfortune to crush her finger badly at the Lyme Railway Station. Whilst saying "Good-bye" to her friend, the carriage door slammed, with the result that Miss Cutler's finger was caught. The accident delayed the departure of the train some minutes whilst Messrs Blanchard and Andrews, employees at the station, applied bandages. When the young lady reached Yeovil Junction a further dressing was applied.

(Dorset Daily Echo - 24.10.1923)

Municipal Elections - There are six nominations for four seats vacant on Lyme Regis Town Council at the November elections. They are:-

Ernest Camplin, 16 Church Street, cabinet maker.

Edward Clarke, 8 Marine Parade, lodging house keeper.

Matthew Henry Neale, 13 Broad Street, chemist.

Mrs Helen Radford, 19 Broad Street.

John Henry Sharley, Windsor terrace, railway clerk.

Edward Alfred Washer, View Road, contractor.

Messrs Camplin and Clarke are seeking re-election.

(The Western Morning News - 27.10.1923)

The following have been sworn as special constables for the borough of Lyme Regis:- Messrs Claude Wiscombe, E H Love, A Holmes, W Emmett, George Chick,

F Gratten, Frank Mitchell, T W Ridgewell, S J Snow, A T Baker, L H Cornish, H Boutland, B Good, T L Staples, & Reg T Wiscombe.

(Western Weekly News - 03.11.1923)

Lyme Regis Municipal results:-

Edward Clarke 367

Ernest Camplin 365

Matthew H Neale 358

John H Sharley 330

Mrs Helen Radford 237

Edward A Washer 99

(The Western Morning News - 02.11.1923)

According to the Medical Officer of Health's report for the past quarter, there has been six births and eight deaths in Lyme Regis during that period. Four samples of milk have been taken under the Food & Drugs act, and all were found satisfactory. The various dairies, milk shops, etc., have been inspected and found well kept.

(Western Weekly News - 10.11.1923)

Masonic Installation at Lyme Regis - The 68th Installation Festival of Montagu Lodge, No. 665, Lyme Regis, took place on Monday at the Masonic Hall. Walter Spreadborough was installed as Worshipful Master. (Dorset Daily Echo - 14.11.1923)

The provisional Lyme Regis Co-operative society has not yet found suitable premises. (Dorset Daily Echo - 05.12.1923)

Lyme Regis & Uplyme - Freehold houses for sale. Allen & Turner, Lyme Regis. (The Western Morning News - 06.12.1923)

Housing Neglected - Dissatisfaction in Lyme Regis because the Council were spending money on improving the sea front but neglecting housing was voiced at yesterday's meeting of the Council. (Western Morning News - 11.12.1923)

Lecture - There was a good attendance at the Drill Hall on the occasion of a lecture on Lyme Regis by Mr C Wanklyn, the proceeds going to the Lyme Regis Cottage Hospital. The lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was eagerly listened to and was very instructive. Mr Wanklyn is well known as the author of "Lyme Regis - A Retrospect".

(Bridport News - 21.12.1923)

New Hotel on Sea Front - Although rumours to the contrary have been in existence for several weeks past, it is now an established fact that a private hotel is to be erected on the Sea Front. Messrs A & F Wiscombe, builders, of Lyme Regis, have commenced work on the premises which it is learned will be completed early in June next, in order that the hotel will be ready for opening in July, in time for next season's visitors. (Bridport News - 21.12.1923)

Mr Van H Allen was one of the prize winners at billiards during the games tournament at the Conservative Club during the Christmas season.

(Bridport News - 28.12.1923)

Renewal of Licences - The annual Licensing Sessions took place at the Guildhall on Wednesday. The Mayor, Mr H Ellis, presided and was accompanied on the bench by Alderman Alben Wiscombe. Supt A P Beck presented his annual report.

There were 11 fully licensed houses, 4 beerhouses for consumption "on" the premises, 1 ditto "off" the premises and two grocers' licences, total 18. There were also five registered clubs. The population of the

borough at the 1921 census was 2,882. This equates to 1 licensed premises to 160 inhabitants. During the year six people were proceeded against for drunkeness. Five were convicted, and one ordered to pay costs. Five were males and one female. Two were residents & four non-residents, including a tramp. The houses, generally, had been well conducted, and, on that ground, he did not oppose renewal of the licences. All the licences were renewed, but in the case of the Dolphin Inn, the owners had to give an undertaking to carry out the proposed alterations with regard to the unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements. (Bridport News - 08.02.1924)

Inadequate Lighting - Complaints regarding the inadequacy of the lighting of the bridge at the bottom of Woodmead Road, Lyme Regis, have, during the recent dark nights, been very frequent. On nights when there is but little moon, so dark is this spot that it is practically impossible to see so much as an arm's length ahead, while the noise of the waterfall robs the passerby of any chance of hearing either the footsteps of other pedestrians, or even of approaching traffic.

Only a week or two ago a gentleman crossing the road came into collision with a horse being led over the bridge, the place being in pitch darkness, and both the pedestrian and the man in charge of the animal being unable either to see or hear one another.

(Bridport News - February 1924)

Great inconvenience is being caused in Lyme Regis by the turning off of the water supply during certain hours of the day. The Council have for many months debated the question of obtaining a better supply, but little progress has been made. If it be necessary to turn off the water now, many are wondering what will happen during the summer months.

(Western Weekly News - 29.03.1924)

Tragic Discovery - Mr Herbert Love, butcher, of Broad Street, Lyme Regis, was found dead with his throat cut in a lavatory at the rear of his house (19.03.1924). Mr Love was 60, and was one of the oldest tradesmen in the borough. He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters. A verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned at the inquest.

(Western Weekly News - March 1924)

Sturgeon sent to the King - A sturgeon weighing 35lb and measuring 5ft 10in in length was caught on the Lyme Regis fishing ground during Thursday night by Messrs J Hodder and J Homyer, two Lyme Regis fishermen. According to custom they telegraphed the King to inquire whether he wished to accept the sturgeon, and they received the following reply from the Master of the Household: "I am commanded to thank you for the sturgeon which you offer for his Majesty's acceptance. Please send it to Buckingham Palace, London." The fish was sent off last night.

(The Daily News - 26.04.1924)

The death is announced of Dr W H Barrett, who for some while resided at Madeira Cottage, Parade, Lyme Regis. It is learned that Dr Barrett passed away at Le Havre, whilst on a yachting cruise to the south of France. The deceased owned considerable property in Lyme Regis and was a member of the Borough Council.

(Bridport News - 25.04.1924)

Dorset Landslide - There was a further landslide yesterday on the coast road between Lyme Regis and Charmouth. The surveyor made an inspection last evening, and the road is being closed to traffic. A large part of the bank between the road and the sea appears to be undermined at the spot where the latest landslide occurred.

(The Daily News - 27.05.1924)

Warships at Lyme Regis - The visit of HM ships Malaya and Princess Margaret to Lyme Regis during the weekend attracted a large number of visitors to the borough. On Saturday afternoon and evening 240 men were ashore, and on Sunday 400. On Saturday afternoon a programme of sports was carried out on the Marine Parade. The men were entertained to tea in the new shelter, Mr Reg Baker, of the "Cosy", being an excellent caterer.

After tea a number of the sailors visited the Drill Hall, where they were entertained by a concert party. The Lyme Regis band played for dancing in Longmoor Gardens. The Malaya gave a short searchlight display. On Sunday afternoon the Malaya's band came ashore. Tea was provided in the shelter. Charabanc trips were given to a number of the seamen, and during the afternoon members of the Borough Advertising Committee visited the Malaya.

(Western Weekly News - 05.07.1924)

Lyme Regis residents generally are glad the old shelter on the Parade has been removed, the sea front being improved thereby. The new shelter will be found sufficient to house all the visitors likely to be in Lyme Regis on a wet day.

(Western Weekly News 02.08.1924)

Some 200 employees of Messrs Cadbury, Bournville, arrived in Lyme Regis on Saturday for a fortnight's holiday. The company are camping at Uplyme and Charmouth. Arrangements have been made for football matches, in which Lyme footballers will pit their skill against that of the men from Birmingham. (Western Weekly News 02.08.1924)

The 400 years old tapestry hanging in the gallery of Lyme Regis Church, depicting the marriage of Henry VII, and Elizabeth of York, is not to be sold. (The Daily Chronicle - 27.09.1924)

Messrs A T Baker, R W Abbott, H Boutland, L H Cornish, G Chick, Frank Cooper, W Emmett, B Good, A Holmes, E H Love, F Mitchell, W H Pidgeon, T W Ridgewell, S J Snow, T L Staples, C Wiscombe, and Reg T Wiscombe have been appointed as special constables for the borough of Lyme Regis. (25.10.1924)

Station in Danger - Landslides have occurred at Lyme Regis recently, and the railway station itself is now in danger. The goods yard has been closed to traffic.

In the coast road to Charmouth there are large gaps, and the walk from Lyme to Charmouth through the fields, so well-known to visitors, is in danger of vanishing. Four acres of land at this part have moved towards the sea.

A cottage a few hundred yards from Church Street is only a few feet distant from one gap. (The Daily Chronicle - 06.11.1924)

Mrs Helen Radford, who was successful in the municipal contest on Saturday, and is the first woman to become a councillor in Lyme Regis, attended her first Council meeting on Monday, when Alderman Bragg was chosen as Mayor for the coming year. (Western Weekly News - 08.11.1924)

Mr Van H Allen was hon. auditor of the Conservative Club. (December 1924)

Mr Van H Allen is the representative of the "Bridport News" for Lyme Regis & District, and he will be pleased to receive news items and advertisements for insertion in our columns. (Bridport News - 19.12.1924)

The death has occurred of Mr Wilton Allhusen at Pinhay, near Rousdon. The deceased gentleman, whose age was 83, came to Pinhay in 1892, where he pursued the life of a country gentleman. He was a lover of sport, and, like the members of his family, was a valued supporter of the Axe Vale Hunt. He leaves a widow, five daughters and three sons. The funeral took place at Axmouth Churchyard. The coffin was borne on a farm waggon, drawn by two horses, from Pinhay to the place of interment.

(Western Weekly News - 02.01.1925)

Mr Van H Allen, Lyme Regis, the well-known card manipulator and entertainer, is prepared to attend private parties, dinners, etc. Any distance - reasonable terms.

Annual Re-union Dinner - On Saturday evening the Uplyme branch of the British Legion held their annual reunion dinner in the Village Hall. There must have been close upon a hundred present. Almost an hour and a quarter was allotted to Mr Van H Allen, of Lyme Regis, who gave a special display of card and coin tricks and amused the company, especially Gen. Pinney and the Rev. Bramwell, throughout the whole of the allotted time. The company were sent into roars of laughter when these two gentlemen were, at the performer's will, enabled to cut, or not to cut, various cards of an unprepared pack covered with a silk handkerchief. (Bridport News - 09.01.1925)

Gale Havoc at Sea Resort - Many hundreds of tons of material forming the esplanade at Sidmouth were washed away yesterday after a renewal of the gale which did much damage to the sea front on the previous day. For nearly fifty feet the high sea wall completely collapsed. Only a few feet now divide the Bedford Hotel from a large gap, and the hotel and four private houses are in danger of being undermined. A number of residents have removed their furniture and departed to safer surroundings. The damage is estimated at £30,000. Further cracks and breaches have been made in the wall, and the damage is rapidly spreading. (The Daily Express - 15.01.1925)

Further Landslide on Charmouth Road - Quite a procession of people visited the Charmouth Road on Sunday afternoon to see the latest slip. In addition to several breaks in the road there is now a large hole, and in order to warn passers of the danger someone has had the forethought to plant a tree in the middle of the hole. At several places along the walk to Charmouth can be seen new gaps, and many tons of earth are gradually slipping away. On East Cliff there have been numerous minor slips, and a very picturesque cottage stands only about 25 feet from the latest slide. (Bridport News 23.01.1925)

Lyme Regis Fire - Stables, garage, coachhouse at Summerhill International School at Lyme Regis were completely destroyed by fire on Thursday night. The fire brigade was powerless, the nearest water supply being half a mile away.

Two of the teachers at the Summerhill International School, the Misses Jones & Lancaster, had slept there during the past few weeks.

When the ladies left the building to visit the Summerhill residence a few yards away, a lamp was left burning in their room. It is thought that this lamp must have upset and so caused the fire. Shortly after seven o'clock one of the young ladies noticed the flames and raised the alarm. The Lyme Fire Brigade was soon in attendance, but the lack of water made their task hopeless.

Endeavours were made to get water from Mill Green, about half a mile away, by means of a hose, but all efforts proved fruitless. A well was found near the building, and here the task of pulling up a bucket of water at a time was continued until four o'clock yesterday morning, by which time the flames had been overpowered, after the premises had been completely burnt out.

Fortunately the wind was blowing the flames away from the Summerhill residence.

Nothing was saved, including the school library and a loom. The young ladies were left only with the clothing they were wearing. The young ladies thought their property was not insured, and although inquiries were made it could not be found if the building itself was covered.

(The Western Morning News - 24.01.1925)

At Lyme Regis Town Hall, Mr H J Ramsbotham, the late hon. secretary of the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, was presented with an address inscribed on vellum expressing the thanks of the Institution of the valuable services he had rendered during his 12 years of office. (Western Morning News - 04.02.1925)

Land on the Move - Lyme appears to be in the centre of a strip of coastline which is suffering badly from erosion and landslips. On the east the main road to Charmouth and London has had to be closed because landslips have occurred near a point known as The Devil's Bellows, which have brought it to within a few feet of a mighty drop to the shore.

In other places this road has dropped 2 feet or more for no apparent cause, unless it be pressure from the hills which tower hundreds of feet to the north.

In the west end of Lyme itself cracks are appearing in houses, and for weeks past the cliff overhanging the parade near the water's edge has been crumbling away, strewing the thoroughfare with debris, trees being brought down in the fall. Further west there has been a landslip in Pinhay Bay and at Seaton, while the trouble at Sidmouth, where the sea smashed the protecting wall, is but a few weeks old.

It is only about 10 years since a portion of the churchyard collapsed into the sea, leaving coffins protruding from the cliff. It is in the same neighbourhood that the most recent slip has occurred.

Strangely enough, houses at this spot have not been affected, but the Mayor mentioned a property on the cliff which 12 months ago was bought for nearly £700, but failed to get a bid at a public auction for £50 last week.

(The Daily Mail - 07.02.1925)

The Town Council have granted Mr Raymond a further extension of his lease of the Assembly Rooms and Victoria Hall for another period of three years. (Bridport News - 13.02.1925)

Death of Former Town Clerk - The death has occurred at his residence, Burton House, of Mr Mathew Colbeck Preston, solicitor and notary. He was 69 years of age.

Mr Preston had practised as a solicitor for nearly half a century, having been admitted in 1877. He occupied the position of Town Clerk of the borough from 1885 to 1910. He was for many years hon secretary of the old Assembly Rooms Club, also of the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. On the occasion of the quarterly exercise of the lifeboat he invariably accompanied the crew to sea, a voluntary duty which on occasions called for considerable courage. For some years past he had made a point of being the first to record his vote at municipal and parliamentary elections. Like his father, the late Mr J W Preston, the deceased was a keen pedestrian, and knew intimately every place of interest in the neighbourhood. Although of a somewhat retiring disposition he shared the respect and esteem of all classes. In accordance with Mr Preston's desire his body was cremated at the Woking Crematorium on Saturday. (Bridport News - 20.02.1925)

At the annual general meeting of Lyme Regis & District Cottage Hospital it was reported that 83 cases were admitted during the year. The average cost per in-patient, including all expenses, was £3 11s 3d per week. (Western Weekly News - 28.03.1925)

Mr R Lane, Lyme Regis - The death occurred on Tuesday of Mr Robert Lane, who for some fifteen years had been the proprietor of the Nag's Head, Lyme Regis. Mr Lane had been ailing for some time, but on Monday was out as usual with his pony. On Tuesday morning he had a fit of coughing, and within about half an hour died. Mr Lane was about 54 years of age, and leaves a widow and two daughters. Prior to taking over the Nag's Head he was proprietor of the Crown Inn, Lyme Regis, up to the time the house was closed. (Morning News - 13.08.1925)

Fight with a Shark - Two Lyme Regis fishermen, Mr A Taylor & Mr J Curtis, caught a blue shark while fishing a mile and a half from the harbour last night. It is 5ft 6in long and weighs about half a hundredweight. The fishermen, who were out with two visitors in search of conger, lost their bait twice before capturing the shark. After a terrific struggle they got the fish on board. Even then it did not give up the fight, and twice bit a thick line in half. Crowds of people are visiting the East Cliff, where the shark is on view. Some declare that it was a man-eater; others are equally emphatic in declaring that it was not. The attack by a large fish - thought to be a shark - on a boy swimmer at Weymouth yesterday has heightened interest in this capture. It is probable that the shark will be sent to the London Museum.

( Daily News - 04.09.1925)

Serious Damage at Lyme Regis - A tremendous storm, which raged at Lyme Regis yesterday, together with a high spring tide, has resulted in very serious damage to the Parade.

About 7 o'clock last evening a resident noticed the Parade sinking rapidly. Heavy seas were dashing over the spot, and within five minutes about 150 feet of the heavily built parade wall caved in, leaving a gap some 20 feet deep.

The great waves drew out hundreds of tons of the Parade material, twisting iron rails, smashing the light standards, and fusing the electric cable, leaving a rapidly widening gap.

Extensive cracks had formed in adjacent parts of the Parade, and it was feared yesterday that before this morning a much larger portion of the front will have been carried into the sea. There is great concern in the town, and many people forced their way through the tremendous seas breaking against the houses on the sea front to view the damage.

(Western Morning News - 02.11.1925)

Council and Costly Repairs - The consulting engineer, Mr Gower B R Pimm, has met Lyme Regis Town Council and reported that he estimates the cost outlined in his report in connection with the damage to the Parade at something like £4000, this allowing a liberal sum for contingencies. (Morning News 12.12.1925)

Landslide on Sea Front - A landslide occurred at Lyme Regis this afternoon, involving hundreds of tons of earth.

A portion of the tennis court and gardens belonging to the beautiful residence known as South Cliff and a part of Langmoor Gardens have dropped about 20 feet for a width of about 100 yards.

The slide has scooped the earth, and has carried with it large fir trees, some of which now lie in Langmoor Gardens.

The gardens have now been closed to the public.

The landslide is close to several private hotels and behind the recently erected shelter on the sea front. (The Daily News - 06.01.1926)

Landslip Havoc - The Landslide this week at Lyme Regis is now proved to have been the worst in the history of the town.

Langmoor Gardens, which have suffered worst, form one of the most charming spots in the town, and are visited by thousands of people each year.

Today the gardens present a remarkable appearance - more like a ploughed field where an earthquake has taken place.

The ground has been lifted in many places, leaving extensive crevices and the garden paths are buried. Immediately behind these gardens stood several trees, but these, together with a tennis court and private garden, have been carried away in the fall and now lie on the plateau.

The Parade itself so far appears to be undamaged, the concrete buttresses which support the front of the gardens having resisted the tremendous pressure of thousands of tons of earth. (Sunday Pictorial - 10.01.1926)

Great Heat Wave Storms - The most severe thunderstorm ever remembered in Lyme Regis broke over the town yesterday morning, accompanied by chain, sheet, and forked lightening, and causing much damage to property.

It began at 3 am and lasted about four hours. The roofs of many houses could not withstand the downpour, and water poured through the roofs into bedrooms and swamped beds and furniture and drenched sleeping people. Other people who sought safety from the lightening downstairs were confronted by the swirling waters in the lower rooms. A woman holding a baby was struck by lightning and became unconscious. Street paving was carried hundreds of yards by the rush of water. Gas mains and electric cables were broken or put out of order, telephones became unworkable, and water pipes burst. Men worked for hours baling out flooded shops and retrieving treasury notes, cheques, and private ledgers.

The town club bedrooms were drenched, windows were smashed by large hailstones, and a motor car was found afloat in a garage in nearly five feet of water. Tents in which people were camping out were washed away, and furniture was floating in the streets. The lightening tore a great hole in the main street. A boiler weighing nearly half a ton was swept before the rush of water.

Street gutters were scooped out to a depth of three feet by the torrents of water which poured over the promenade and made a trench about 10 feet deep in the beach. Trees were uprooted and rivers in the countryside burst their banks.

(The Daily Express - 19.07.1926)

Lyme Regis Hospital - The present hospital at Lyme Regis is not at all satisfactory, writes a correspondent, and while everyone was wondering how to find a suitable site for a new hospital and the money to erect one, the offer of Hernlea was made. This is a delightful private house facing south and standing back from the road in a good garden.

(Western Weekly News 11.09.1926)

Lyme Regis Church Hall - The new Church Hall, Lyme Regis, was used for the first time when the Parochial Church Council met. The building is almost ready for its formal opening by the Bishop of Salisbury on October 21.

(Western Weekly News - 25.09.1926)

Slaughter House Nuisance - The Medical Officer, Dr P N Cook, reported that he had received a complaint as to hides and fat having been left for some days in the slaughter house at Gun Cliff. Mr Emmett said that morning there were hundreds and thousands of maggots on his front doorstep. The smell was perfectly awful at Mr Emmett's house the previous evening.

(Pulman's Weekly News - 21.09.1926)

Last Launch of the Lifeboat - "Thomas Masterman Hardy" Lyme Regis lifeboat, was launched there for the last time when Coxswain Boalch and three of his men took her to Weymouth to be sent by rail to the RNLI yard.

(Sunday Graphic & Sunday News - 13.11.1932)

Lyme Regis Business Man's Failure - At Exeter on Wednesday R Osborne, hairdresser and tobacconist, trading as Beer & Son, Broad Street, Lyme Regis, underwent his public examination in bankruptcy before Maurice A Mathew (Registrar). Debtor's statement of affairs showed liabilities £2695 due to 57 unsecured creditors, and assets estimated to produce £427. (Western Weekly News - 03.09.1932)

Major General Sir Reginald Pinney, KCB, presented a framed certificate to Coxswain Boalch, of the Lyme Regis Lifeboat, in recognition of his having served 35 years. He also presented a similar certificate to Mr Walter Abbott for 37 years' service. The presentation was made publicly at Lyme Regis on Saturday, when the official closing of the Lyme Regis lifeboat station took place. Mr Abbott has been the champion town crier of England and Wales for the past three years.

(The Western Times - 16.12.1932)

Death of Mr Boalch - The death occurred just before midnight on Wednesday of Mr Boalch, Lyme Regis harbour master. Mr Boalch, who was 59 years of age, was carrying out his duties as usual on Monday, and had only been confined to his home for two days, during which time he kept in touch with his work. Since his appointment as harbour master in April 1919, he came in touch with thousands of visitors to Lyme Regis, and was undoubtedly one of the borough's most familiar figures. Many visitors will remember him as coxswain of the Thomas Masterman Hardy lifeboat. He was very proud of a framed certificate, which was publicly presented to him December last in recognition on his having served 35 years in the lifeboat service. He felt keenly the removal of the lifeboat from Lyme Regis in November last, to be held as a reserve boat. (March 3rd 1933)

Hard Courts for Lyme Regis - Work is in progress at Lyme Regis for the making of six hard lawn tennis courts on the Old Grammar School site, which was recently purchased by Lyme Regis Council. Space is being left for making a bowling green.

The school buildings are being converted into two public halls (to be used for dancing, whist and meetings etc), with central heating throughout. The total cost is estimated as between £4,000 and £5,000, and the scheme is looked upon as likely to be one of Lyme's greatest attractions. (Western Weekly News - 06.05.1933)

Bank Manager Retires - After 48 years' service with Lloyds Bank, 28 years as manager at Lyme Regis, Mr J E Hill has resigned.

Mr Hill began work at Bristol. He has been scoutmaster at Lyme Regis for 21 years and intends continuing his active interest in the movement despite his retirement from professional life. (News Chronicle - 16.09.1933)

Mr R W Baker, of Broad Street, Lyme Regis, has just been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the borough of Lyme Regis. He is an alderman of the borough, an ex-Mayor, and now Deputy Mayor. (December 9th 1933)

The president (Mrs Van Allen) presided at the sixth annual general meeting of Lyme Regis branch of the Women's Institutes, held at the Gables Hall, when 55 members attended. (Western Morning News - 23.01.1934)

Master Smith of Lyme Regis - Mr & Mrs Samuel Edward Govier, of Broad Street, Lyme Regis, celebrated their golden wedding today. Mr Govier was painted by James Abbot McNeill Whistler under the title of "Master Smith of Lyme Regis", and this was considered one of the finest pictures painted by this famous artist. The picture now hangs in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, USA. Mr Govier started work as a blacksmith at the age of 10, and continued until he was 60. He is now 78 and his wife is aged 81. They were married at St Michael's Church, Lyme Regis. Govier earned 2/- a week when he started work with his father, who had been a master blacksmith for sixty years previously at Lyme Regis. "We used to work 17 hours a day, including Sundays," said Mr Govier, adding it would be difficult to find a lad today to work even 10 hours a day.

(February 13th 1934)

Lyme Regis Sale - Lyme Regis Corporation bought five houses in Ozone Terrace, together with a stretch of beach and a tennis court for £4,000 yesterday. (Bristol Evening World - 25.04.1934)

Lyme Regis Licensee Fined - For permitting drunkenness on her premises, Mrs Elizabeth Bowditch, licensee of the Dolphin Inn, Lyme Regis, who was stated to have held the licence of the Dolphin Inn for 29 years and to have been a licence holder for 40 years, was fined £2 2s and costs at Lyme Regis yesterday. (Western Morning News - 17.05.1934)

Lyme Regis Funeral - The funeral took place yesterday of Mrs L D Haddon, of Broad Street, Lyme Regis. The service was conducted at the Parish church by the vicar, the Rev Carew Cox, assisted by the Rev R Higham, with Mr H Pocock at the organ.

The coffin had rested in the church overnight and after the service was taken to Cricket Malherbie where the burial took place.

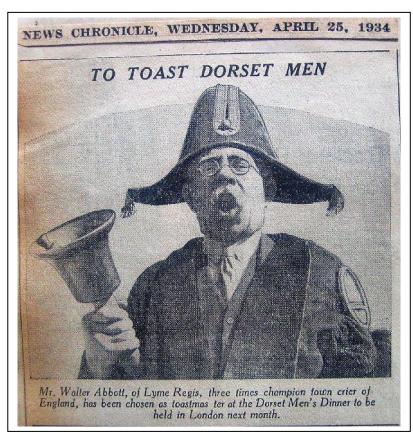
(Bristol Evening World - 30.06.1934)

Bowls at Lyme Regis - The Mayor of Lyme Regis (Mr G H Worth) has reported to the Council that the Ozone Tennis Court on the sea front, recently purchased by the Council, is capable of being made into four rinks, and the committee have recommended that a bowling green be constructed and that tenders be invited for the work. The Council is to give the matter further consideration.

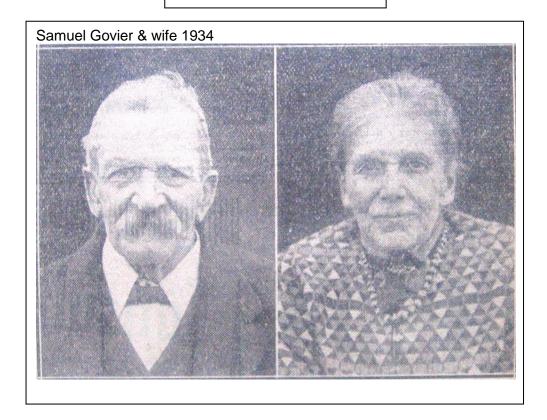
(Western Morning News - 18.08.1934)

A letter was read, to the Lyme Regis Borough Council yesterday, from Messrs W Palmer & Co that Messrs Bradford & Sons Ltd were seeking a buyer for their property at the Square, Lyme Regis, and were prepared to sell for £4,000. (Western Morning News - 13.11.1934)





## Master Smith of Lyme Regis



New Town Clerk - Mr Fiennes Trotman, jun. aged 31, solicitor of Beaminster, has just been appointed Town Clerk of the borough of Lyme Regis, in place of Mr H J Ramsbotham, resigned. There were 34 applications for the post. Mr Trotman was educated at Bradfield College, Berks, and was articled at Beaminster to his father. After qualifying he was with Mr Walter H Day, of Maidstone, and later with Messrs Crowdy & Rose of Faringdon, Berks.

He returned to Beaminster as a partner of his firm, Messrs Kitson & Trotman, well known Dorset solicitors in 1931. He is the grandson of the late Rev Edward Fiennes Trotman, hon canon of Bristol Cathedral. (1934)

Twice Mayor - The death took place on Monday of Mr Samuel Harris, JP, of Colway Manor, Lyme Regis. He was first elected a member of the Lyme Regis Borough Council in 1892, and served for an unbroken period of 34 years. During this period he was an alderman for some 20 years, and the Mayor of the borough on two occasions. He was 76 years of age. (February 1935)

£2,000 for Chideock Drill Hall - For £2,000 Mr Van H Allen, of Lyme Regis, purchased Chideock Drill Hall at auction on Tuesday and he also bought the curtains and chairs for £15 15s.

He was fulfilling his generous offer, announced last week, to bid for the property and if he secured it, to offer it at cost and without charging any fees to the residents of Chideock through the Parish Council. (Bridport News - 20.08.1948)