



Bulkington

Diamond Wedding

On Saturday Mr and Mrs W J Humphries, of Rowcroft Cottage, Seend, celebrated the 60th anniversary of their wedding day. They were married in 1876 at St Phillips Church, Arlington Square, London.

Mr Humphries, who is 88 years old in July, received his early education at the National School, Trowbridge, his father being employed at one of the cloth factories for many years. He entered the scholastic profession, and his first appointment was an assistant teacher at St Thomas' Charterhouse, London, his first headmastership being at St Bride's School in Fleet Street. He was also headmaster at Keevil School. In 1887 Mr Humphries was headmaster of Seend School, and here he had the help of his wife for nine years, also of one of his daughters. He retired in 1913.

Mr Humphries started the Wiltshire Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society at Seend and was secretary of the local Lodge for 40 years. He was rate collector for Seend, Bulkington and Keevil, overseer for the same parishes, clerk to the Keevil Parish Council, and clerk to the Seend Parish Council. He is still a member of Seend Parish Council, and for nearly 40 years he was a trustee of "Tippers Charity".

Mr and Mrs Humphries had six children, four sons and two daughters. One daughter, Mrs L Akerman, died recently; the other daughter is Mrs W Eade of Los Angeles, California. She travelled 3000 miles by road to New York and made the sea journey in time to spend Christmas at the old home.

Mr Richard Humphries, a son, who is RQMS with the 2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment, stationed at Jerusalem, was also able to get home in time. The other children are Mr G Humphries, sub-postmaster at Seend, Mr E Humphries of Calgary, and Mr Sidney Humphries, London. There are nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr and Mrs Humphries are held in the highest esteem in the village, and on the occasion of their golden wedding, they received a purse of gold from the residents.

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