

## **Death of Mr Herbert Druitt.**

**1943**

With the passing of Mr. Herbert Druitt, which took place at a nursing home on Tuesday last, the Borough loses a very familiar figure, a man with an unusual personality and a scholar with a knowledge of this town undeniably as extensive as that of any other person

Herbert Druitt was born in No. 15, High Street, and throughout the whole of his life displayed a lively interest in the history of his native town.

He was younger son of the late Mr. James Druitt, solicitor and lawyer, himself a notable character, who at sometime held all the offices of importance it was possible to hold in Christchurch and Bournemouth.

Herbert Druitt served many years on the Council. He was first elected for the Jumpers Ward in 1914, serving until he was defeated by Mr. Crockett in 1921. In 1926 he came back (in the Central Ward) to defeat Mr. E. Russell Oakley, now Alderman, by a narrow majority on a question concerning commons. After three years Mr. Druitt was defeated by Mr. Douglas Galton, our present Mayor.

During the membership of the Council he was Chairman of the Finance Committee and was the first Chairman of the Town Planning Committee.

Throughout the last war Mr. Druitt was the mainstay of the Union Jack Club for troops. He also carried out the whole of the work of drawing up the Christchurch Roll of Honour. Together with Mr. Russell Oakley he founded the Christchurch Historical and Scientific Society, which was inaugurated on 29th June, 1918. Mr. Herbert Druitt was hon. editor and curator. These works in which Mr. Druitt engaged his earlier years have been largely forgotten: his scholarship is almost completely unknown.

As a result of many years of research, Mr. Druitt prepared an unsurpassed work on Monumental Brasses of the Mediaeval Period. More of his writings, published in monthly instalments as supplements to the Parish Magazine under the title of "Christchurch Miscellany," would

have been of the utmost interest to the locality—had they been completed. He wrote a treatise on Christchurch published on the occasion of the British Medical Association meetings in Bournemouth some years ago and, just recently, prepared a scholarly script on the Priory Church for the occasion of the visit of the New Zealand High Commissioner. And perhaps no man in the South of England could equal his knowledge of mediaeval Latin—"Monks Latin," as he called it. He was a member of **the** Christchurch Church Repairs Committee from the time it was instituted by order of the Court of Chancery; and he was a connoisseur of pottery, glass and china.

His interest in collecting increased with his years and especially for anything with the slightest local interest. It had been his ambition that the town should have a local museum and indeed one of his well known repositories for so many of the articles which he regarded as treasures was for a short while opened to the public as a museum. He had purchased the property, and offered it and its contents to the Council as a museum, but his conditions were unacceptable. The Historical Society tried to interest an outside benefactor; but no success could be achieved and though Mr. Druitt often spoke of doing something about the museum, nothing was done—though his collections grew.

Amongst the property he owned is the ruined 12th century Constable's House by Quarterly's Bridge over the Millstream.

The late Mr. Druitt was a fluent talker. He was seldom at a loss for some anecdote or other; and never without his own views on any question of local history and interest.

Mr. Druitt had been ill for about a month. His brother, Mr. Melvill Druitt and two sisters Miss Charlotte Druitt and Mrs. B. Blair survive him.

The funeral service took place at the Priory Church at 2:30 p.m. on Friday.

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### **Funeral of Mr Herbert Druitt**

In the Priory Church on Friday afternoon, November 19th, a funeral service was held for Mr. Herbert Druitt, well-known Christchurch historian and collector, whose death occurred on November 16th.

Nearly fifty relatives, friends and acquaintances gathered in the Church for the service, which was conducted by the Rev. Canon W.H. Gay, R.D., assisted by the Rev. Clements. The organist, Mr. Cardew-Buckley, played music by Bach before and after the service, and Mr. Druitt's favourite hymn, "Jesu, joy of man's desiring."

Those of the family present were: Mr. Melvill Druitt, Mr. and Mrs. J.B.H. Druitt, Mrs. Alan Druitt, Mr. J.B. Druitt, and Miss C.S. Druitt. Miss Charlotte Druitt was unable to attend because of illness.

Among others in the church were the Mayor (Alderman D. Galton), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. Markham), Alderman J.W. Tucker, Mr. J.W.D. Platt (Town Clerk) and Mrs. Platt, Mr. A.G. Head (Deputy Town Clerk), Mr. W.G. Spickernell, Mr. J.R. Connell (Borough Treasurer), Mr. M. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. H. Mooring Aldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Lane, Mr. J. Nutman, Mr. D. Llewellyn, Mr. C.G. Bulstrode, Mr. T. Blandford, Mrs. Campbell-Russell, and Mrs. Edith Croucher.