

# 100 years ago

# 1889



## CHIPPING ODDFELLOWS' CLUB DAY

"It always rains on Chipping Club Day." is a local "proverb," the truth of which was borne out at the celebration of that festival on Thursday - Ascension Day. The morning opened dull and heavy clouds were conspicuous. Soon rain fell, and it continued to fall almost incessantly from the time the processions were formed till night, though there were occasional gleams of sunshine. In the village there were the usual indications of festivity and near the Talbot Inn were reared "Aunt Sallies," and various other catch pennies, but the preparations were by no means on so elaborate a scale as in previous years, and it is very evident that the popularity of the club is on the wane. There are three clubs in the village the most important of which is the Royal Queen Adelaide Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, Slaidburn District. The other clubs are The Druids and the Catholic Brethren, the former never taking part in the processions, while the latter only walks every two years, and as they joined in the procession last year they took no part in the celebration in the festival on Thursday.

The Oddfellows to the number of 50, met at their lodge room in the Talbot Inn at 9.30 and about 10.30 marched in processional order, headed by the village brass band, to the Vicarage, where they escorted the Vicar, The Rev J.B. Jones B.A. to the Church. Here the National Anthem was played on the organ, and a service was conducted by the Vicar, who preached from the words "Then he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight." Acts 1-9. In the course of his sermon the Reverend gentleman said exceptions were taken by extreme Protestants to Saint's days being celebrated. He did not know why they at Chipping had been accustomed to celebrate their club day on Holy Thursday but thought that they ought to celebrate it with a due regard to the fact that it was on this day that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. He knew that to many their club day afforded numerous temptations, but he hoped that by faith in the Holy Spirit they would be able to show to others temperance and moderation, and to prove that they held to reverence Holy Thursday or Ascension Day. After the service the procession reformed and walked down Grove Road and returned by their lodge room at the Talbot Inn where dinner was served. The vicar presided and there were present; Messrs. T Seed, N.G., and J T Kenyon, V.G.; R James (Secretary) J Y Rideal (Treasurer) J Kenyon & R Hoyle (Trustees) and others. After repast the usual royal and patriotic toasts were honoured. The secretary presented the 55th annual report, which showed that during the year 1888, the income in the sick and funeral fund, including members contributions £144.17s and interest £139.8s amounts to £284.5s, while the expenditure including sick pay to members of other lodges £25.3s was £184, leaving a balance of £100.5s. In the management fund the receipts amounted to £68.16s while the expenditure totalled £23, leaving a balance from last year with interest amounted to £1,037.5s and of this £12 had been expended in the withdrawal of two members shares, so there was a balance in hand of £1,025.5s. The total funds at the end of the year amounted to £4,211.7s of which £3,300 was invested in the Preston Corporation, £734.14s in cottage property and £53 in Preston Savings Bank, while £20 remained in the treasurers hands and £103.12 in the lodge safe. The total number of members was 203 an increase of 8 on last year. The youngest was 17 years old and the oldest 88. The club is in a very prosperous condition, financially and otherwise.

The Catholic Brethren held service in their Church in the morning, The Rev Fr de Gryse officiating. The usual dinner was held in the Talbot Inn, after which the financial statement was read and various toasts honoured.