

Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle Saturday 10 January 1880, Issue 4946

Death of Mr J G GUNN - We regret to announce the death of Mr James Golden GUNN, which took place yesterday (Friday) at 12 o'clock. Mr GUNN was one of our best known and most highly respected townsmen, having won his position in the estimation of his fellow townsmen by his strict probity and conscientiousness. He possessed good business aptitude, and was a very useful member of Ryde Town Council and the School Board. He was for many years a member of the Board of Commissioners, and when the town became a borough was elected Town Councillor, which office he retained till last November, when declining health led him to resign. He had been a member of the School Board ever since it was first constituted in 1871, and was for several years its Vice-Chairman. Mr GUNN was about 56 years of age.

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Funeral of Ex-Councillor GUNN – The funeral of Mr J G GUNN, whose death we recorded in last Saturday's impression, took place on Wednesday afternoon, at the Ryde Cemetery, when the respect in which the deceased was held was indicated by an unusually large attendance. Nearly all the tradesmen in High Street put up their shutters. The coffin was carried from the deceased's home in West Street to the Cemetery by bearers. It was of handsome polished oak with brass mountings, and on it were laid three splendid wreaths. The funeral cortege was joined at the gate of the Cemetery by the Mayor and nearly all the members of the Corporation, by the Chairman and members of the School Board, members of the Young Men's Christian Association, about 50 children attending the Swanmore Sunday School, of which deceased was for many years superintendent, and many friends from various parts of the Island. The funeral service was performed by the Rev Theodore HOOKE (Congregationalist). An impressive feature in the proceedings was the singing by the children of the very last hymn given out by the deceased at the Sunday school. In spite of the inclement weather, there were 400 or 500 people in the Cemetery on the mournful occasion.

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Town Council – A meeting of the Town Council was held on Tuesday afternoon. The Mayor presided, and in opening the meeting, referred to the death of Mr J G GUNN. Two months since that gentleman was a member of that Council, but retiring in rotation in November, he did not seek re-election in consequence of his failing health. He considered that Mr GUNN's long connection with the governing body of the town justified him in referring to his public services. Mr GUNN was first elected a member of the Commissioners under the Ryde Improvement Act in 1860, and he was again elected in 1863. He served as a Commissioner until the incorporation of the town, when he was elected a Councillor, and, with the exception of the year 1872-3 (when many members retired), he served continuously up to last November. He was a most conscientious attendant at their meetings, and he (the Mayor) regarded him as one of their most useful members, his advice and judgment on matters which came before the Council being very valuable. He was one of the most careful speakers amongst them, and his opinion had considerable weight. The town, by the death of Mr GUNN, had lost a most worthy citizen, and a very honest, industrious, and truthful man, while many had lost a sincere friend. He had much pleasure in bearing his testimony to the integrity and uprightness of character of Mr GUNN. He concluded by proposing a vote of condolence to the family of the deceased. – Alderman BARROW seconded, and fully endorsed all that the Mayor had stated, and the resolution was carried unanimously. – The Mayor then invited those present to attend the funeral at three o'clock on the following day.

