

Tom Phipps
Landlord of the Barrington Arms, Shrivenham
From the newspaper North Wilts Herald, Fri 27 Aug 1926

Oldest Licensee in Wiltshire
Death of Mr T. Phipps at Swindon
Notable Character

The death took place on Saturday morning of Mr Tom Phipps, of the Greyhound Hotel, Cambria Place, Swindon, at the age of 86 years.

Mr Phipps was the oldest licensed victualler in Wiltshire, having held a licence since 1878. He was also the oldest Volunteer, having enlisted at the time of the initiation of the movement in 1859. As a licensee he had been host of several houses in Wiltshire and Berkshire. For many years he held the licence of the Barrington Arms Hotel, Shrivenham, and for the past 14 years he had been at the Greyhound.

A man of wide and varied experience, Mr Phipps, when a young man, spent six years in India, where he worked in the Carriage Department of the Oudu Railway at Lucknow. He returned from the East more than half a century ago and entered the service of the GWR Company. Shortly afterwards he had the honour of being the first elected member for the Carriage Department on the Council of the Mechanics Institute.

When one met Mr Phipps in recent years he was always in a reminiscent mood. He was fond of referring to the initial stages of the long-fought industrial battle for shorter hours, in which he took part, when it first started in 1864 at Birmingham. In 1871 he took part in a similar movement at Swindon in connection with the carriage workers.

Deceased loved all kinds of sport, and particularly football, and for some years he was a director of the Swindon Town Football Club. He was greatly interested in the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, and was probably the oldest 'Buff' in Wiltshire.

For nearly 15 years Mr Phipps was captain of the Shrivenham Cricket Club and also vice-president of the local Football Club. He was a vice-president of the Swindon Athletic Club and a patron of the Swindon Cricket Club.

On the occasion of his 80th birthday, Mr Phipps entertained a party of 200 friends to supper. He was presented with a gold-mounted cigarette holder and a box of cigarettes and also an umbrella.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at Shrivenham, the service being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev E.F. Hill), who also officiated at the graveside.