

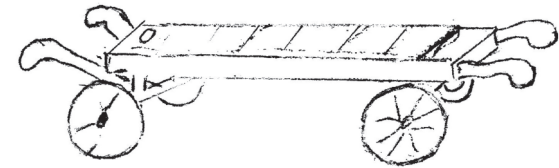
Letters to the Editor

The Parish Bier

During a conversation with Sybil (Pryor) some time ago, she happened to mention that when her Grandmother bought the old rectory, the village bier was left behind in an outbuilding. I was interested in what she recalled and asked her if she would let me have more information and if possible a sketch of the bier. She thought her sister Rachel would have a better recollection of what it looked like and promised to ask Rachel to make a sketch. Sybil has now given me the sketch and some notes to go with it.

Rita Denman

"This is sister Rachel's drawing of what we thought was the old parish bier which lived in the cart-shed/cow house at the old rectory, probably left behind when our grandmother, Mrs. Lister, bought the Rectory House from the church in 1928 (I think).



"I think this is more or less how the village bier looked. The front wheels were on a bogey but I am not sure of the mechanics. The top was slatted with about 4" boards. The wheels were spoked with iron tyres and possibly rather bigger than I've drawn' - *Rachel*.

"On it we kept guineas pigs in hutches and two impeccable Blue Beveren hares which were given to my oldest brother Richard by his school friend, Tommy Sopwith. I won lots of prizes with them at the Horticultural Society Show, but they bit! Eventually I went away to school too - not sure what happened to the hares" - *Sybil Pryor*.

If anyone has any information on the parish bier and when it may have last been used at a funeral please let us know - Editor.