

## **FRED CASTLE: His Funeral**

Fred Castle died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1968. He was living at 311 Canterbury Road at the time of his death. The press cutting states that he was a 'well known village character, with his horse Flower (the children will miss him).' The arrangements for his funeral were made by 'The Squares', whose chairman was Mr A. W. Wanstall (Wally) of P.W.D. Butchers in the Square. Donations from local residents were made towards the arrangements, so that the funeral was a truly 'village affair'. The press cutting appears to state that Fred was only 57 years old when he died, but he was, in fact, 65 years old. His funeral was on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Flower, his 11-year-old cart-horse, was chief mourner as his master's funeral. It was Fred's last wish that Flower would accompany the funeral cortege on its journey to the church. During his latter years, Mr Castle, a carter by trade, had raised hundreds of pounds for charity, with Flower's help, at local fêtes and carnivals. He earned his living by carrying anything from a houseful of furniture (piece by piece!) to seaweed – and sometimes two such loads could follow within the same day! He was the last person in the village to earn his living in this way, using a horse and cart. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were at least six such carriers around, some working only in and around the village, while others plied their trade as far afield as Canterbury.