

Bruce David Charman

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Obituaries

INSTRUMENTAL in setting up the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and involved in many Island organisations, Bruce David Charman, has died, aged 89.

Born and raised in Lewes, Sussex, Mr. Charman began his working life as a clerk at Hellingly Mental Hospital.

He served with the Territorial Army in the Royal Engineers in Kenya and Tanzania during the Second World War, but was demobbed and returned to Hellingly.

Mr. Charman married his first wife, Margaret, in 1941, and they had two children, Jenny and David, before Margaret died from cancer in 1957.

The family had moved to the Island in 1950 and Mr Charman worked as a chief administrator at Whitecroft Mental Hospital.

In 1963, he married his second wife, Bobbie, and the couple celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary last year.

Mr. Charman moved to St Mary's Hospital as a sector administrator in 1970, before retiring in 1981.

In the late 1970s he was part of a group which recognised a need for a hospice on the Island, which led to the opening of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice in 1982.

Mr. Charman was involved with a host of Island organisations, including treasurer of the I.W. Laryngectomy Club and honorary treasurer at the British Red Cross.

He was chairman of the finance committee and steward at Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport, and a trustee of the I.W. Society for the Blind.

Mr. Charman, a Brighton and Hove Albion supporter, was a life vice-president of the Hampshire and I.W. football associations, which he served for more than 50 years, including as treasurer, secretary and disciplinary committee member.

His other sporting interests included playing cricket for Whitecroft Cricket Club, as well as snooker and surfing.

Mr. Charman, a steam train enthusiast, received an MBE in 1998 for services to the I W community.

He leaves his wife, two children, three grandchildren, and three great grandchild.

Mr. Charman's funeral was held at Quay Street Methodist Church, on Tuesday.

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