**David Victor Death**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 8 June 2007**

**OBITUARIES**

**ISLAND** motorcycle dealer Dave Death has died, aged 81.

Mr. Death, of Woodside, Wootton, was born in Calbourne and had three brothers. He was educated on the Island and finished his schooling at Chillerton School, aged 14, leaving to work in the gardens of Island-based author J. B. Priestley.

During the Second World War he became a Bevin Boy, working in the coal mines and later joined the RAF as a driver.

It was during this time that he married Eileen, in 1943, at the St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Newport, and they had four children, Carole, Mike, Jane and Pat.

After the war, Mr. Death worked for Wooldridges, Newport, and it was while working as a delivery driver he began to build the business that was to become Dave Death Motorcycles, in Yarmouth.

It began when Mr. Death started repairing bikes in the garden next to his house and became such a success that eventually he left Wooldridges to concentrate on his motorcycles full time.

By 1961, it had moved to a new site in Carisbrooke and in the 1970s, the present building was constructed and later extended by Dave.

Both his sons were involved in the family business from an early age and when Mr. Death retired, Pat took over the daily management until his death in 2002.

Mr. Death always maintained an interest in the business, even after retirement.

In 1981 Mr. Death entered a new phase in his life when he met Lynne, and her son, Jim.

As well as motorcycling, he indulged in his favourite hobbies during his retirement, including fishing - he was a member of West Wight Angling Club - and spending hours on his self-built boat, Sea Urchin, in Yarmouth Harbour.

He was also passionate about red squirrels and helped design the first rope walks for the Island's red squirrel population.

He leaves Eileen and their three children, Lynne and Jim, 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grand children and two great-great grandchildren.

His funeral takes place next Friday at St Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, at 2.30pm, followed by a celebration of his life at Newport Football Club.

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