

Mona Elizabeth Ranger

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OBITUARIES

Mrs. Mona E. Ranger

A NEWPORT woman who had been a tireless worker for the town's rowing club and carnival has died.

Mrs. Mona Elizabeth Ranger, of Sunningdale Road, was 82 and had been resident at the Haven Nursing Home at Havenstreet for the last year.

She was born at the Ship and Launch public house where her parents were the licensees. It was on the banks of the River Medina alongside the rowing club boathouse, and as a young girl she used to help out on race days.

In 1950 Mrs. Ranger became the first woman to hold office in the club when she took over a treasurer, a post she still held.

A few years earlier because the war had taken its toll of the clubhouse, the club had to move premises to the Folly on the opposite side of the river but she fought hard to get it back to the original site.

In 1970 the then owner of the clubhouse, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Mew, handed it over to Mrs. Ranger, who typically passed it on to trustees to run for the club.

As treasurer she took a lead in fund raising and had the satisfaction of seeing the fleet grow from two to ten boats.

Two years ago she was made life vice president. Mrs. Ranger won similar recognition from Newport Carnival Association. She joined a year after it was formed in 1921, serving as assistant secretary and then organizing secretary until retiring 13 years ago.

Her husband, Leslie, who was in the Merchant Navy, died in 1955.

Their only son, Michael, has also played an important role with the rowing club and still holds the post of secretary he took up more than 35 years ago.

His mother also gave him strong support when he started his own marine business in 1975.

The funeral service at St. Thomas's Parish Church yesterday (Thursday) was followed by interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

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