

George Frederick Bloomfield

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METHODIST, ENGINEER AND PUBLIC SERVANT

DEATH OF MR. G.F. BLOOMFIELD, OF WOOTTON

The death took place on Sunday at St. Mary's Hospital of Mr. George Frederick Bloomfield, A.M.I.M.E., aged 67, of Hillcroft, Palmers Road, Wootton. Mr. Bloomfield, a former member of four local authorities, including the County Council, was prominently associated with the Methodist cause and for many years was well-known as works engineer for Messrs. Saunders-Roe, of East Cowes.

Born in London of Suffolk parents, Mr. Bloomfield studied at London University and was apprenticed to the well-known shipping firm of Sir Alfred Yarrow, completing his apprenticeship on the Clyde when the firm moved there. He was first associated with the Island as a junior member of the technical staff of Messrs. John Samuel White and Co., at Cowes, and later, after a short period of teaching at Colchester Technical College, he became works engineer to the Martinsyde company at Woking. He returned to the Island in 1921 to work in the drawing office of Messrs. Saunders-Roe, and later became works engineer, supervising much of the considerable building programme which was carried out at East Cowes, and during the last war, at Anglesey where he was transferred for the war period and where new works were built.

Mr. Bloomfield was attracted by local authority work, and became a member of the old East Cowes District Council in 1930. In 1933 when East and West Cowes were amalgamated for local government purposes under the Review of County Districts he secured a seat for the Osborne Ward of the enlarged Cowes District Council and served until 1939. After a period as vice-chairman, he was chairman in 1934. He was also a member of the Cowes Harbour Commissioners being prominently associated with the building of the harbour breakwater. While living in semi-retirement at Wootton he served on the Newport Town Council from 1947 until 1951 and from 1948 until 1952 represented the Fairlee division on the County Council. He was also associated with educational work as a member of the board of governors of the Cowes Secondary Modern School and was chairman of the managers of Whippingham School. He was an official prison visitor. For a time he was the Island representative on the Southern Area Electricity Consultative Council.

Throughout his residencies on the Island Mr. Bloomfield had been well-known in Methodism, and was trustee of the Quay Street Methodist Church and for a time of the Gurnard, and East Cowes Adelaide Grove churches. While his health permitted he sang regularly in the Quay Street Methodist choir and had a deep interest in choral work in which he was associated with his late father-in-law, Mr. W. C. Smith, of Newport. He will be remembered as one of the Newport Gleemen, the male voice choir whose services were in great demand at local concerts in the inter-war years, and he was also a member of the old Newport Philharmonic Society, and, more recently, the St. Cecilia singers, formed at Newport by Miss K. Lower. With Mr. Smith, Mr. Bloomfield was a member of a male-voice quartet which had successes at the I.W. Musical festival and at local concerts. He was a member of the Medina Lodge of Freemasons.

The funeral took place on Wednesday at the Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport and was conducted by the Rev. C. Cardy in the presence of a large congregation representing all branches of church activity. Mr. Cardy paid tribute to Mr. Bloomfield's life and work. Mr. W.G. Bartlett was the organist and the hymns "The Lord's my Shepherd" (to Crimond) and "For all the Saints" were sung. The mourners were Mrs. Bloomfield (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. E. H. Smith (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mesdames M. McNaughton and Brock, Miss Jocelyn, and Mr. C. Smith (cousins), Mr. A. Elliott, the Rev. W. J. King and Mrs. Oliver. Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the many floral tributes including those from the Quay Street Methodist Church and the Medina Lodge of Freemasons. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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