

## William Godwin

Isle of Wight County Press  
21 March 1942

### NEWPORT

**Death of Mr. William Godwin.**- The death occurred at his residence, 1 Whitepit-lane, on Monday, in his 87th year, of Mr. William Godwin, an esteemed resident of the borough for 36 years, who at one time was a member of the Corporation, and for about 30 years had been the popular chairman of the Liberal Club. He was also for some years the chairman of the branch of the League of Nations Union. Mr. Godwin was a Staffordshire man who, after being in business at Reading, where he was chairman of the Liberal Club, came to Newport to join the well known firm of Godwins, clothiers and outfitters, which had been previously established in St. James's-square by his son (Mr. Hubert Godwin, T.C.). He had continued his association with the firm ever since. Soon after he came to the town he became the chairman of the Liberal Club, where his genial and kindly presence and support made him extremely popular, and he still held the position at the time of his death. In 1911 he was elected to the Town Council as a representative of the South Ward, and remained a very useful member of the Council until 1922. From 1916 to 1919 he was chairman of the Education Committee and he held the important position of chairman of the General Purposes Committee for five years (1917-1922), when he was succeeded by the present chairman (Ald. W. Blake). During the last war he and Mrs. Godwin suffered the loss of their two sons, who held commissions, and after the war Mr. Godwin gave up much of his time to furthering the efforts of the League of Nations in the hope that it would prevent such sacrifices for others. Sincere sympathy is extended to his devoted partner during over 50 years of married life and to his only surviving son in their bereavement. Mr. and Mrs. Godwin celebrated their golden wedding in January of last year. He had enjoyed remarkably good health for his advanced age until seized with heart trouble during the severe weather of late. As a young man he was one of the original members of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club. The funeral took place on Thursday, the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon (vicar) officiating at the service in St. John's Church and at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Miss D. Welby-Pryer, L.R.A.M. (organist), accompanied the 23rd Psalm and the hymn "Jesu, Lover of my soul," and played "O rest in the Lord" at the close of the church service. The family mourners were Mrs. Godwin (widow), Mr. and Mrs. H. Godwin (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. K. Godwin (grandson) and Mrs. Godwin, and Mr. J. W. Gibbs. The following members of the staff of Godwins attended: Messrs. T. D. Mills and E. Jackman (Newport), L. G. Rugg (Cowes), E. Hendy (East Cowes), E. Bull (Ryde) and R. Denyer (Freshwater and Yarmouth); also Corpl. H. Parsonsage, a former employee. Those also present included Ald F. E. Whitcher J.P. (also representing the Mayor) and Mrs. Whitcher, Ald. Mrs. E. R. Chandler, J.P., Ald. W. Blake J.P., Messrs. J. J. Simmonds, T.C., and W. C. Smith T.C., Mrs. Downer (representing Mr. W. H. Downer, T.C.), Messrs. G. Norman (chairman), W. G. Cooper (hon. secretary), A. G. Harrison (hon. treasurer), and J. F. Launder, Newport branch of the League of Nations Union; Messrs. G. H. Snellgrove (hon. secretary), W. Cousins (assistant hon. secretary), H. B. J. Lower, and W. T. Fry, Liberal Club; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Purkis, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Eldridge, Mrs. G. H. Snellgrove, Mr. W. and Miss Bailey, Miss Etheridge, Miss Earle, Mrs. G. F. Quinton, Miss Quinton (British Red Cross Society), Mr. and Mrs. V. Wadham,

Mrs. Strugnell, Miss Barton, Miss Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. C. Attrill (Niton), Mr. G. F. Tomlinson (I.W. Liberal Association), Capt. H. A. Drudge (I.W. Conservative association), Lieut.-Col. the Rev. J. M. Connor, D.S.O. and Messrs. W. T. Collins, J.P., L. P. Mew, senior, J. A. Hayles, H. Scott, T. Ross Pratt, J. B. Alderslade, T. Buckler, E. S. Walham, A. H. Hughes, W. Guy, E. Harding, R. R. Dore, C.C., W. G. Sibbick, A. J. Williams, R. E. Core (Weeks, Ltd.), W. S. Gibbs, C. M. Dabell, F. R. Pakinson, G. E. Tomlinson, and C. Wyatt. There were many floral tributes, including those from the Mayor and Corporation; the I.W. Liberal association; the Liberal Club; the League of Nations Union; the South African Wars' Veterans' Association; and Godwin's staff. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

*Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,*

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