

Evelyn Harold Matthews

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FORMER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CLERK

DEATH OF MR. E. H. MATTHEWS OF NEWPORT

The death occurred on Friday week, at his residence, 10 Medina Avenue, Newport, of Mr. Evelyn Harold Matthews, who was in his 80th year. Mr. Matthews was for nearly 40 years clerk to the I.W. National Insurance Committee, and its successor under the National Health Service Act, the I.W. Executive Council. Mr. Matthews was also well-known at Cowes, where he resided for some years.

A native of Bembridge, he was educated at Newport Grammar School, and spent the earlier part of his career in legal work, chiefly with Messrs. James Eldridge and Son. In 1912 he was appointed clerk to the I.W. Insurance Committee, then newly constituted under the National Health Insurance Act. He continued in office for the period of the last war, although due to retire in 1939, and subsequently extended his service still further to assist in launching the I.W. Executive Council when the National Health Insurance Act came into force in 1948. He eventually retired in 1949. Mr. Matthews was a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Insurance, and for many years a keen member and secretary of the Syndicate Club at Cowes, before taking up residence at Newport. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, a service at St. Paul's Church, Barton, being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley). In a tribute, the vicar said that Mr. Matthews had served the community faithfully and was well-known in Newport, where he had spent much of his life. He was one of the oldest surviving old boys of the Grammar School. A man of a friendly disposition, he worked industriously. Both he and his wife enjoyed good health and were fortunate enough to have celebrated the diamond jubilee anniversary of their wedding in 1951. He extended sympathy to Mrs. Matthews and the family.

Mr. L. E. Dore was the organist, and the service included the hymns "Abide with me" and "O God, our help in ages past", and the 23rd Psalm. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Matthews and Mr. K. W. Matthews (sons and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. Bennett (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. R. Bennett and Mrs. J. A. K. Collins (grandchildren) and Mrs. K. Brown and Mrs. Burnett (cousins). The large congregation included representatives of the I.W. Executive Council and of Messrs. James Eldridge and Son.

The interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the many floral tributes including one from the staff of the I.W. Executive Council. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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