

William Morris

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NEWPORT

Nonagenarian Gardener's Death.—The death took place at his residence, 28 New-street, on Friday week, at the great age of 96, of Mr. William Morris, who half a century ago was a prominent and popular figure in Island horticultural circles, both as a successful exhibitor and able judge. Mr. Morris was a Niton man. He came to Newport at the age of 27 to be head gardener to Capt. Eveleigh, of Shide House, whom he served in that capacity for 26 years until the Captain's death. It was during that time that products of Mr. Morris's skill in outdoor and indoor culture, particularly chrysanthemums and other flowers, graced the tables at many Island horticultural shows, and later he was in much demand as a judge. After leaving Shide House he worked in the Newport area as a jobbing gardener, until he was well passed four score years, and he continued to tend the garden at his home in New-street until this spring, when he potted the chrysanthemums, now a charming picture in his conservatory. After leaving Shide he lived for a time in a house in Drill-hall-road, where the conservatory jutted into the street, and its blaze of flowers was greatly admired. Mr. Morris's wife died nearly 19 years ago, and he leaves one son and one daughter. He was confined to his bed for only a month before his death, and he retained a clear memory of the days of his boyhood. He was a typically cheerful and helpful son of the soil, who made friends wherever he went. He had been a devoted member of the congregation of the Baptist Church throughout his residence here, was a member of the I.W. Horticultural Association and the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows, and one of the original committee men of the P.S.A. Brotherhood, in which he continued his keen interest for many years. The funeral was on Wednesday, a service being held in the Castlehold Baptist Church and the interment at Carisbrooke. The Rev. G. Barry Morgan officiated and the organist (Mrs. Pilcher) accompanied the hymns "O God, our help" and "There is a land of pure delight". The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Morris (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Morris (daughter), Mrs. W. Morris (daughter-in-law), Mr. G. Attrill, Miss Jacobs, Miss G. Jacobs, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Attrill (Niton). Members of the congregation of the church and representatives of the P.S.A. Brotherhood, Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows, and the I.W. Horticultural Association were also present. Mr. G. Attrill (lecture master) read the Oddfellows burial service at the graveside. The numerous wreaths included those from the Castlehold Baptist Church; the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows; and neighbours in New-street. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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