

Stanley John Stevens

1939 Register, 216 W. Wycombe Road, Chepping Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Charles H Stevens	Male	14/10/1881	Married	Butcher (Master)
Esther Stevens	Female	21/04/1890	Married	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Albert G Stevens	Male	24/03/1916	Single	Butcher (Shopman & roundsman)
Harold Stevens	Male	21/02/1917	Single	Butcher (Manager)
Stanley J Stevens	Male	20/01/1925	Single	At School
This record is officially closed				
Rosemary A Stevens	Female	07/08/1930	Single	At School
Bessie A Faulkner	Female	14/04/1911	Single	General domestic maid

Isle of Wight Country Press – 25 October 1985

THE MAN who was probably the best-known master butcher – and public rights campaigner – on the Island, Mr. Stanley Stevens, of Newport, has died at the age of 60.

Mr. Stevens was at County Hall, waiting to see Mr. David Court, the Island's deputy surveyor, when he collapsed and died in the reception area of the surveyor's department last Friday.

He wanted to see Mr. Court over his latest public battle, the replacement of missing drain covers around Newport.

Mr. Court called an ambulance but efforts to revive Mr. Stevens failed.

Mr. Stevens, of Alderbury Road, was married with a son, daughter and two grandchildren.

Born in High Wycombe in 1925, the youngest son in a family of six, he was educated at the Royal Grammar School there.

He left school early to help his father in the family meat business, first established in 1824, moving to the Island in 1947 to take over the former Pitcher's butcher's shop in Pyle Street.

BELIEFS

At the end of the last war Mr. Stevens was in the Quakers' Friends' Ambulance Unit and travelled to Germany with them to help at the displaced persons' camp.

It was there that he saw a great deal of human suffering, and this subsequently influenced his life and his beliefs.

His wife, Ruby, explained, "Stanley's greatest interests were to promote peace and understanding throughout the world.

"He thought that if people could meet each other enough, especially young people, it would be a great thing for peace.

"He also felt that a lot of people had worries and problems they felt they could do nothing about – that they were just fighting a losing battle against big institutions.

"Stanley thought we still had rights. He would always fight for a just cause and try to put matters right when he saw an injustice, however large the organisation involved.

"He stood for the rights of the individual."

Mr. Stevens met her in 1950 and they were married the following year. In 1959 the family emigrated to New Zealand, returning to the UK in 1963 on the death of one of Mr. Stevens' brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens returned to the Island in 1964, moving to their Alderbury Road home, and Mr.

22 December 2018

Stevens resumed the running of the Pyle Street shop, which had been managed in his absence.

He retired from the shop three years ago because of ill-health, but continued to run a small part-time, wholesale meat business.

He was a former president of the IW Meat Traders' Association, and for many years had been a keen member of Newport Rotary Club.

CELEBRATIONS

He joined this in 1951, and was president in the club's golden jubilee year in 1973/4, when he was successful in getting the president of Rotary International to attend the Island celebrations.

Mr. Stevens, a Mason, was a sidesman at St. Thomas' Church, Newport, and a former member of the Parochial Church Council.

He was also involved with the IW Society for the Bland, and was a member of the committee which raised funds for the building of Polars.

A tireless campaigner for the rights of the man-in-the-street, he was currently involved in a battle with British Telecom over charges, and had been exchanging ideas with local councils over the cleanliness in Island towns.

As a means of keeping his numerous relatives and friends informed of events, for the past 25 years he had issued a newsletter every Christmas from notes kept in his diary.

"People were his greatest interest and he kept in touch with many friends throughout the world." said Mrs. Stevens.

The funeral service takes place today (Friday) at 1 pm at St. Thomas' Church, Newport, to be followed by burial at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

STRUCTURE

A tribute to Mr. Stevens was paid in the House of Commons on Monday by Mr. Stephen Ross, MP.

He put forward a motion that "this House regrets the passing of Stanley J. Stevens who in recent years has almost single-handedly challenged the whole structure of British Telecom charges and exposed many anomalies."

He called upon the Government to follow Mr. Stevens' example and insist upon a detailed report on current practices before any further increases in charges is implemented.

Mr. M.G. Barton, leader of the county council said, "For those of us involved in public life in the town of Newport life without Stanley Stevens will never be the same again.

"A persistent advocate for the ratepayer and townsfolk Stanley never let any of us forget our responsibilities and he will be sadly missed and many of us will have a quieter life but a duller one.

"A real character has passed from our town's life and I for one shall always remember him."

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