

Sidney Charles Wadham

Isle of Wight County Press

31 August 1940

DEATH OF MR. S. C. WADHAM, OF SANDOWN.

AN EX-MAYOR OF NEWPORT.

We regret to announce the death, at a Shanklin nursing home on Friday week, of Mr. Sidney Charles Wadham, of Avington, Royal-crescent, Sandown, an ex-Mayor of Newport and managing director of the firm of Wadham and Sons, Ltd., furniture manufacturers and dealers of Newport. Mr. Wadham, who was in his 70th year, was a native of Newport and for many years until he went to live in semi-retirement in 1929, he was a prominent and esteemed figure in the municipal and business life of the Island capital. He was educated at the Newport Grammar School under the headmastership of the late Rev. E. W. Watts, M.A., and on leaving school entered his father's furnishing business and succeeded his father in its management at the early age of 21. He conducted it with marked success, and when it was made into a private company in 1903 he became a director and had been managing director of the firm since 1907, although for some few years the management has been mainly in the hands of his only son, Mr. Victor Wadham. In spite of the calls of a large business he found time to render good service to the community as a member of the Town Council for 19 years and had the honour of succeeding Alderman F. E. Whitcher in the mayoralty in 1919, occupying the high office for a year with the charming help of his wife. He was elected an alderman in 1923 and continued to serve the town in this capacity until his retirement in 1933 after his removal to Shanklin. He had served on most of the committees of the Council, as well as on the Education Committee, the Isle of Wight Assessment Committee, and the Newport and Carisbrooke Joint Burial Board, and was a member of the I.W. Chamber of Commerce. His work on the Council will be chiefly remembered, however, for his enterprise and keenness as chairman for some years after the last war of the Housing Committee. It was to a great extent due to his foresight and push that Newport's contribution to the national housing scheme was so creditable, and he added to it by private building. Some 30 years ago he was instrumental in reviving the Newport Philharmonic Society and had continued his interest in the society ever since, an interest which is shared by his son. He was a member of the Parish Church choir for 28 years and served the church as warden for a short time. Eleven years ago he curtailed his activities at Newport and went to reside at Shanklin, afterwards removing to Sandown. His chief hobby was the breeding of cocker spaniels, and his pets had frequently won some of the chief prizes at Island and mainland shows. For some years he was chairman of the I.W. Canine Society. A great lover of animals, he was a former chairman of the West Wight branch of the R.S.P.C.A., and some years ago he was the principal local advocate of the use of the humane killer for slaughtering animals, a practice which has now been made compulsory. He was one of the chief agitators for the removal of the cattle market from St. James's-square, another aim which he saw fulfilled.

Extremely courteous and always kindly and considerate, he was greatly respected by his employees and all associated with him in business and municipal life, and his widow, son and two married daughters have the sincere sympathy of many friends in their loss. Mr. Wadham had been in indifferent health since just before Christmas, 1939.

The funeral was on Wednesday at Newport, the service being on the Parish Church and the interment at Carisbrooke. The acting Vicar (the Rev. C. L. H. Beardmore) officiated and Miss K. Lower, L.R.A.M., at the organ. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. V. S. Wadham (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. Coombs (daughter), Mr. L. Macan (son-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Bright (brother-in-law and sister), Messrs. A. E., P., and S. Wadham (brothers), Mr. and Mrs. Simpson Wadham, Mr. Walton Wadham, Mr. Francis Bright, and Miss Joyce Bright (nephews and nieces), Mrs. F. G. Wadham, and Mrs. Sangster, of Sandown. The following members of the staff of Messrs. Wadham and Sons followed: Messrs. A. Allam, G. A. Cooke, F. Rochester, E. Realey, S. Gustar, and C. Sibbick, and Miss Gentle (Newport shop), Mr. J. Powell (manager, Cowes branch), Mr. A. Poole (manager, Freshwater branch), and Messrs. R. Meech, G. Cooper, R. Morey, A. Thompson and B. Whitlock (workshop). They were accompanied by Mr. E. Denton, who was employed by the firm for 58 years. Others attending were the Mayor of Newport (Mr. G. C. Russell, T.C.), Ald. F. E. Whitcher, J.P., Mr. Leonard Jordan, J.P., Mr. A. E. Harvey, J.P., Mr. W. H. Dann, J.P., Miss Burnard (representing the town clerk Mr. R. Preston), Miss Scadding, the Misses Etheridge, Miss Way, Mrs. Perry, Lieu.-Col. the Rev. J. M. Connor, D.S.O., Messrs. E. C. Hulse (vice-chairman), A. Heal (hon. secretary), and R. G. W. Reed, (representing the I.W. Canine Association), and Messrs. J. H. Black, W.D. Way Buckell (also representing Mr. A. W. Drew), H. W. Dore, E. W. Way, T. Ross Pratt, J. A. Hayles, R. T. Brackey, T.C., S. W. Ibbotson, C. Wyatt, H. W. Lincoln, G. H. Snellgrove, H. E. Stratton, E. A. McCullagh, E. L. Stevens, R. H. Pritchard (churchwarden), R. G. Daish, E. R. Dore, C.C., E. J. Kemp, F. Scovell, W. M. Alderslade, J. D. Truscott, A. T. Barton, A. A. Whitfield, H. Mayes, and E. Swan. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including those from the sales and clerical staff and the works staff of Wadham and Sons, and one from the I.W. Canine Association. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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