

## **Gladys May Ashby**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 27 March 1981**

### **A STALWART OF LIBERAL PARTY DIES**

**THE FUNERAL** of Miss Gladys Ashby, a Liberal Party stalwart on the Island for over 50 years takes place on Monday at the Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport.

Miss Ashby, of Holyrood Street, Newport, died in St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Tuesday, aged 77.

For many years before and after the last war Miss Ashby ran the Island Liberal Association almost single-handedly from her home.

In 1978, she was elected a member of the Liberal Roll of Honour for her "meritorious services." This is the highest honour which the Liberal Party can bestow on a member, and Miss Ashby's certificate marking the election was signed by Liberal leader, Mr. David Steel.

Born and brought up on the Island, her parents ran a sweets, tobacco and scales shop in Holyrood Street, and she continued the business after they died.

Her other main interest was the Quay Street Methodist Church, of which she was a lifelong member, and she was once a Sunday School teacher there.

Miss Ashby was secretary of the church trust for many years until 1970. She was also once a keen Newport Carnival exhibitor.

She leaves one surviving relative, her sister, Mrs. Doris Matthews, of Trafalgar Road, Newport.

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