

## **Lilian Kate Downer**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 1 January 1944**

### **Newport**

**Remarkable Sunday-school Service Record.**— A joint record of service to the young as Sunday-school teachers which is probably unique was completed this week, when Mr. W. H. Downer, T.C., of 34 Chapel-street, and his wife resigned their positions as superintendent and teacher respectively in the Quay-street Methodist Sunday-school. Mr. Downer has attended the school as scholar, teacher, and superintendent for 70 years, having been the esteemed superintendent for 34 years, and his wife has an unbroken association with the school going back about 50 years, 43 years as a teacher. This is indeed a noble record of service to the children of Newport, the fruits of which are impossible to estimate. In the heyday of Sunday-schools some 30 years ago the Quay-street school was one of the largest in the borough, with about 250 scholars. The regrettable general decline in Sunday-school attendance has reduced the number to about 100, but, nevertheless, there must be thousands of ex-scholars who would desire to pay tribute to the good influence which Mr. and Mrs. Downer's teaching and example have had on their lives, and to wish them the peaceful happiness they so richly deserve now the time has come for them to end their loving labours. It is not only in the Sunday-school that Mr. and Mrs. Downer have rendered outstanding service to local Methodism. Mr. Downer has been a lay preacher for 55 years and is still carrying on the work, and Mrs. Downer has always been one of the church's most enthusiastic workers at bazaars and social functions. Throughout the last war, and for a time in the early days of the present war, she was an indefatigable helper at the soldier's canteen and recreation-room in the Church-hall, which is now the British Restaurant. Mr. E. Higginbotham is succeeding Mr. Downer as superintendent.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 14 February 1953**

### **Newport**

**Town Councillor Bereaved.** – Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. W. H. Downer, T. C., of 34 Chapel Street, in the death, which took place yesterday afternoon, of his wife, Mrs. Lilian Kate Downer, aged 80. A life-long worker for the Methodist cause in connection with the Quay Street Church, Mrs. Downer had been prominent in every branch of its work, as well as being a staunch supporter of the National British Women's Total Abstinence Union. During both wars she was among the hard working band who provided a canteen for Service personnel in the church schoolroom, a work in which she won the affection of all. She was also a prominent worker for the I.W. Liberal Association, The funeral will take place on Tuesday at the Quay Street church at 2 p.m.

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