

**Owen Ashley Purkis**

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**Obituaries**

**Mr. Owen Ashley (Peter) Purkis**

OWEN Ashley Purkis, a businessman who ran three Newport shops until 1979, has died after a short illness, aged 95.

Mr Purkis, who was known as Peter, was born at Dean Farm, Whitwell, in 1913, and had two sisters, Peggy and Jean.

Educated in Newport, he left school at 14 to train as a tailor in Leicester.

He then joined the family business, G. B. Purkis and Sons, comprising two men's outfitters' and a shoe shop in Newport.

Mr Purkis ran the shops until they were wound up in 1979 and he retired.

During the Second World War, he was conscripted into the army and worked at a munitions dump in Norfolk but following an explosion which left him deaf in one ear he was released from service.

Mr Purkis married his wife, Kathleen, in Cowes in 1939, and they had two children, Heather and Nick.

He was a member of Newport Badminton Club and a lifetime member of Newport Bowling Club. He also enjoyed playing bridge, gardening and birds.

He lived at his home on Buckbury Lane, Newport for most of his life, moving to Highfield Nursing Home, Ryde, for the final months of his life.

He leaves his two children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

His funeral took place at St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church, Newport, on Thursday last week.

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