

Dorothy Mabel Read

Isle of Wight County Press – 7 May 1948

DEATH OF MRS. D. M. READ, J.P. OF NEWPORT

LEGION TRIBUTES.

Widespread regret has been occasioned by the death of Mrs. Dorothy Mabel Read, J.P., of 59 Trafalgar Road, Newport, wife of Mr. C. E. Read, head master of Parkhurst Council School. She recently underwent an operation at the County Hospital and her death occurred somewhat suddenly on Monday. Newport has thus lost one who had a deep regard for her fellows and always gave of her best in the public interest. Her home was at Windsor, and her first association with the Island was when she came many years ago to teach at the former Barton Girls' School, under the late Miss Hanshaw. She returned to teaching during the 1914-18 war to replace men who were serving. She was keenly interested in the British Legion from its formation and was an original member of the women's section of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch, which was to become one of her chief interests. In the early years she was secretary, and for about 20 years had been the very capable and enthusiastic chairman, it being in no small measure due to her efforts that the organisation has become one of the largest and most successful women's sections in the Island. As chairman, Mrs. Read had always been closely associated with the organisation of the local Earl Haig's Poppy Fund appeal, and her services were freely placed at the disposal of successive organisers. The Poppy Day arrangements were originally undertaken by the Mayoress for the time being, and subsequently by Miss A. Dawson Horan, the then president, but in all cases Mrs. Read's able assistance was gratefully received and acknowledged. On the death of Miss Horan in 1949 Mrs. Read took over the responsibility as organizer, and it is of interest that the 1948 total of £620 was one of the largest local collections on record. During the war she was in charge of the British Legion rest centre, which did valuable work in caring for victims of the Cowes raid. Mrs. Read was also a valued member of the W.V.S., another sphere in which she served the community with ability and devotion. In 1942 her services were recognised by her appointment as a Borough Magistrate, a task to which she brought the benefits of wide experience and balanced judgment, notably in the discharge of her duties on the juvenile panel. Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Read and his son and two daughters in their loss.

An impressive tribute was paid by fellow members of the British Legion at the funeral yesterday (Friday) afternoon. The service was at St. Paul's, Barton where the church path was lined by members of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the Legion and of the women's section, a demonstration of affection in which many members from other Island branches and women's sections joined. Standards of the Legion and of other ex-Service associations grouped at the church door included those of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch and the Ryde and Wootton women's sections, as well as the South African Wars' Veterans' Association and the R.A.S.C. Association. These organisations were all represented amongst those lining the church path, together with members of the Old Contemptibles' Association. The standard of the women's section of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch preceded the coffin as it was borne into and from the church. The service was conducted by the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley (vicar). The Rev. G. C. Seymour (Rural Dean of West Wight), in a tribute, said Mrs. Read was one of those unselfish people who gave up a good deal of personal ease for the welfare of others. The chief mourners were Mr. Read (husband), Mr. and Mrs. W. Read (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. Signeux and Miss B. Read (daughters), Mesdames A. Bray and A. Lloyd, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Roberts (sisters and brother-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. W. Read (brother-in-law and sister-in-law).

At Newport Cemetery, where the interment took place, the Legion and other ex-Service representatives formed a guard of honour, and at the graveside standards were dipped in salute, and Mr. R. J. Daltry sounded the last Post and Réveillé. Poppies were dropped into the grave by members of the Legion as they filed past.

Transcription by Pamela Cowan for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2024
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>