

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1964

## ORCHESTRA FOUNDER'S DEATH

### MR. ARTHUR DUNFORD

Island music has suffered a great loss by the death on Tuesday of Mr. **Arthur George DUNFORD**, aged 57 of 66 Monkton Street, Ryde. His name was synonymous with classical musical here, as he was founder and conductor of the Arthur DUNFORD String Orchestral Society, one of the Island's outstanding musical combinations.

A native of Ryde, Mr. DUNFORD began his career as a clerk in the Ministry of Labour and later was employed by Messrs. SAUNDERS-ROE. Six years ago he became catering manager of the Agnes WEBSTER Sailors' Rest Home at Portsmouth, and about 18 months ago joined the staff of Messrs. W. TEAGUE and Co., of Union Street, Ryde. He was a devoted worshipper at St. James's Church, Ryde, being deputy organist for a time, and was a member of the Independent Order of Rechabites.

He formerly conducted the SAUNDERS-ROE male voice choir of about 40 voices. They were much in demand for concerts all over the Island and competed in Ryde and Gosport festivals. He founded the Dunford Orchestra in 1947 and was pardonably proud of the fact that he had never missed a concert – until the orchestra's last engagement at Ventnor in May, when he was taken suddenly ill. The orchestra have broadcast from Ryde on the B.B.C. Western regional programme seven times. It is a tribute to his skill and enthusiasm that apart from some coaching by Kathleen RIDDICK he was largely self-taught as a conductor; and a tribute to his personality that he kept an amateur group together over a period of 17 years. Their loyalty was unflagging; Thursday night was always "DUNFORD night." A courageous feature of his programme planning was his policy to include living British composers, irrespective of box office appeal; he also fostered the talent of Island instrumentalists with concerto opportunity. He was a violinist, and was recently working on the viola in the hope of taking part in chamber music.

Mr. DUNFORD leaves a widow. The funeral took place yesterday at St. James's Church, Ryde.

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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1964

### THE LATE MR. ARTHUR DUNFORD

Many Island musicians attend the funeral service of Mr. Arthur George DUNFORD at St. James's Church, Ryde, on Friday week. The incumbent (The Rev. E.E.M. GREEN officiated, and Mr. W.L. REED, at the organ, accompanied the singing of "How bright these glorious spirits shine" and "The Lord's my shepherd" (CRIMOND).

The mourners were Mrs. DUNFORD (widow), Mr. C. DUNFORD (brother), Mr. and Mrs. R. COSSINS (brother-in-law and sister), Messrs. W. and E. BURGESS (brothers-in-law), Messrs. B. COSSINS, Mr. CLEARY and F. BURGESS (nephews), Mr. and Mrs. R.A. St. JOHN BIGGS and Mr. G.F. MEW. Organisations represented included various departments of St. James's Church, the Arthur DUNFORD String Orchestral Society, the county music organisation, I.W. Subscription Concerts, management and staff of W. TEAGUE and Co., Ltd., and of Westland Aircraft, Ltd (SAUNDERS-ROE division), and the Independent Order of Rechabites.

The interment was at Binstead Cemetery. The floral tributes included those from the Arthur DUNFORD String Orchestral Society, St. James's Church, head office and staffs of the Royal Sailors' Rest, Portsmouth, waitresses of the Royal Sailors' Rest, and directors of TEAGUES, Ryde and Newport staffs of TEAGUES, and Island musicians and friends.

Messrs. H.V. TAYLOR and Son made the arrangements.

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