

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 1958

Death Notice:

**FIRTH (Ethel)** - Sept. 19th at Richmond Villa, Marlborough Road, Ryde, aged 66.

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**DEATH OF MRS. J. H. FIRTH, J.P.**

Mrs. **Ethel Mary FIRTH**, an ardent welfare worker and former Doncaster magistrate, died at her home, Richmond Villa, Marlborough Road, Elmfield, on Friday week, at the age of 66. Born at Doncaster, she took a leading part in the civic life of her native town. For 17 years she was a member of the County Borough Council and was a magistrate for almost as long, being chairman of the juvenile panel for several years. She took a great interest in public health work and child welfare and maternity work. In recognition of her experience and services in Doncaster, she was co-opted by the Ministry of Health to the Public Health Committee on moving to the Island soon after the last war. She lived at Niton and Sandown for short periods before coming here about 10 years ago. She played a leading part in the opening of the school for backward children at Crocker Street, Newport, and was elected vice-chairman of the committee in charge. She was elected chairman and then hon. secretary, in addition, of the Co-operative Women's Guild at Shanklin, and was the branch representative on the Southern Area Council. She was a member of the Ryde Labour Party. Her husband, Mr. J. H. FIRTH, was one of the pioneers of the Labour movement in the Doncaster district, and since coming to the Island has taken a prominent role in Parliamentary election campaigns in support of the Labour candidate. Their only son, Mr. J. R. FIRTH, A.R.I.B.A., is chief architect to the Ministry of Works in Hong Kong.

The Rev. H. WILDE, M.B.E., M.C., officiated at the funeral at Ryde Cemetery on Monday. The mourners were Mr. J. H. FIRTH (husband), Miss L. LEFLEY, Mesdames HIGSON and REES, and Mr. H. JONES. The Island Co-operative Educational Committee and the Shanklin Co-operative Women's Guild were represented and sent wreaths.

Messrs. J. WHEELER and Sons made the arrangements.

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Researched & typed by  
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