FOND TRIBUTES TO A ‘BRILLIANT MAN’

HEARTFELT tributes have been paid to former Mayor of Weymouth and Portland Eric Webb.

Mr Webb, 95, who lived in Weymouth from 1970 and then Dorchester from 2001, passed away at Dorset County Hospital.

He was a much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather who is already sorely missed by his family, including his daughters Joan, Gill and Sue.

Former schoolteacher Mr Webb was described by daughter Gillian Derbyshire as a ‘very loving and kind family man’.

Mr Webb was elected on to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council in 1973 and served as mayor in 1984. He was made an honorary alderman of the borough in 1989.

He was also a county councillor and a member of the education, planning and transportation and social services committees, bringing more than 30 years of teaching experience to the people he represented.

“Eric was a custodian of the Nothe Fort and heavily involved with the Choral Society, Boys Club and local schools among many other organisations.

“The highlight of his time was undoubtedly 1984 when he was mayor,” said Mr Webb’s daughter Gillian. “We’d like to express our sincere thanks to the staff of Somerleigh Court and Day Lewis Ward for their exceptional care.”

Andy Hutchings, former borough councillor and also an honorary alderman, described Mr Webb as a ‘bubbly person in character with a lovely sense of humour’.

He added: “I was on various council committees with Eric and got on extremely well with him even though we were different political parties.”

Former county councillor Alan Chedzoy added: “Eric was a brilliant man incredibly dedicated to the people he represented.

“He was a great defender of Weymouth’s history and very much enjoyed helping at the Nothe Fort.”

Dedicated: Eric Webb during his time as mayor of Weymouth and Portland, with mayoress Olive Webb.

Inset, with mayoress and Portland, of Weymouth time as mayor Eric Webb.

Pay your respects

MR WEBB’S funeral service will be held at Weymouth Crematorium at 1pm on February 28, followed by a service celebrating his life at 2.15pm.

The later service will take place at the United Church in Dorchester, where all former friends, colleagues and fellow councillors will be welcome.

His family ask for family flowers only but any donations for the Nothe Fort and any enquiries can be made to the Woods of Dorchester.

Tara Cox responding immediately if any of his constituents needed him.

“He was a great defender of Weymouth’s history and very much enjoyed helping at the Nothe Fort.”

Development plans for deprived wards

DEVELOPMENT ideas for four ‘priority areas’ in the borough are being sought at an event in partnership with the council’s Working With You project.

Council chiefs are working with the community on action plans to tackle issues in Weymouth and Portland’s deprived wards.

Four ‘priority’ areas in the borough – Littlemoor, Melcombe Regis, Portland Underhill and Westham – are the focus of the event.

The council aims to work with people in these communities and bring together groups with the aim of tackling crime and health problems and improving the quality of life for residents.

Parents and teenagers are encouraged to give their views at an event on March 1 at Weymouth Community Safety Centre, which is linked to the Fire Station on Radipole Lane.

The event will run from 10am until 2pm and there will be various stalls, stalls and tours around the fire station.

The day will have a specific focus on development in the community, especially ideas for a skate park or a free running area from 11am to 1pm.

Councillor Christine James said: “I would encourage youngsters and parents to go along with views on whether a skate park would be a desired item in the community.

“At the moment we are concerned that communities in Westham, Southill and Chickwell have nothing central to relate to and are considering a skate park or alternative to bringing communities together.”

Collectibles and crafts

WEYMOUTH: A weekly arts, crafts and collectibles sale starts tomorrow at the Riviera Hotel, Bowlreale.

Doors open to the public at 10am. Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

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