**Obituaries August 13th 2008**

Mrs Brenda Lawson

Former IW councillor and long serving public figure Brenda Lawson has died of cancer at the age of 65.

Tributes were paid following her death on Wednesday morning, the day of Ventnor Carnival, on which committee she served for many years.

Mrs Lawson was IW council member for Ventnor East from 1998-2005, and before that served on South Wight Borough Council from 1991 to 1995.

IW council chairman Cllr Arthur Taylor said, “My council colleagues and I are saddened by the news of the death of Brenda Lawson. Brenda was a dedicated servant to her community during her time with the IW Council and more recently in her role of Ventnor Town Council. Our thoughts are with her family and friends”.

Mrs Lawson was elected to Ventnor Town Council in 1991, and served as mayor in 1994-5, 2002-3, and 2005-6. She was on the IW association of Parish and Town Councils and represented the Island on the National Association of Local Councils.

She had been chairman of the Macnaughton-Howe Craft Competition since 2002, spent more than 3 years as a trustee for the IW Society for the Blind, latterly serving as acting chairman.

She was also acting chairman of the IW branch of the Citizen’s Advice Bureau.

Born in Cambridge, she was educated in Essex and worked as a PA before becoming a secretary for Ford at their Dagenham base. In 1967, she married Geoff, a boiler maker from the IW, and the couple were married for 41 years.

They moved to the Island in the early 1980’s living in Niton and Upper Bonchurch before setting in South Street, Ventnor.

Mrs Lawson had a clothes shop in Pier Street, where she did dressmaking and alterations, before she got heavily involved in local government.

She leaves her husband, son, Alan, daughter Melody, and three grandchildren.