

■ Family man and friend to so many in the community, Ivan Balls dies aged 73

Member of Newlyn choir for 50 years

A DEDICATED member of Newlyn Male Choir for over 50 years, a devoted family man and friend to so many in his local community, Ivan Balls, 73, has died at Treliske Hospital, Truro.

With talents that ranged from music to painting and blessed with a strong sense of loyalty as well as good humour, he leaves a widow, June, daughter Rachel, son Nathan, grandchildren Matthew, aged seven and Anna six, daughter-in-law Morag and stepson Robert.

A service of celebration for his life will take place at Penmount Crematorium, Truro, tomorrow at 3pm. Ivan had been a patient at Treliske since Christmas Eve, awaiting an operation, after suffering a heart attack.

The news of his death early on Thursday came as a great shock and sadness to all in Newlyn.

A talented tenor singer, Ivan was a leading personality in the choir that he joined when he was 17, twice serving periods as chairman and for many years its publicity officer.

Ivan researched and wrote its history *Bucca's Song* – “dedicated to the gentlemen, past and present, of Newlyn Male Choir” – helped organise many fund-raising events and was elected a Life Member for his record of service. He did them proud.

Such was his concentration on research for the book that one day he was locked inside the Morrab Library when it had closed its doors and he was downstairs studying old newspaper records. He was “rescued” after the library’s alarm sounded.

The sense of humour and enjoyment of dialect was such that June and Ivan called their home at Mount Lidden, Penzance, after a phrase he heard many times in his childhood ‘Wast Du Wedhen.’

He was born a “Newlyn Towner” of a fishing family at Lower Green Street, but later moved to “Street-an-Nowan” at Tolcarne Terrace – from close to the south pier of the harbour to close to the North arm.

Grandfather had settled in the port from Lowestoft and father, Billy Balls, was skipper of the long-liner Mayon Castle. His mother was Sarah Ann Harvey Cattran, of a well-known Newlyn family.

Following education at Tolcarne and Penzance Grammar Schools, Ivan began work at the Employment Exchange in Penzance, later transferring to St Ives as manager, and in 1974 joined the county council as district careers officer for Penwith, based at Penzance. He retired in 1990.

It was in 1960 that Ivan married his first wife, Elizabeth. They had two children and lived at Hillcrest, Paul Hill and at Polgoon Close, Penzance, but she died in 1987 after a

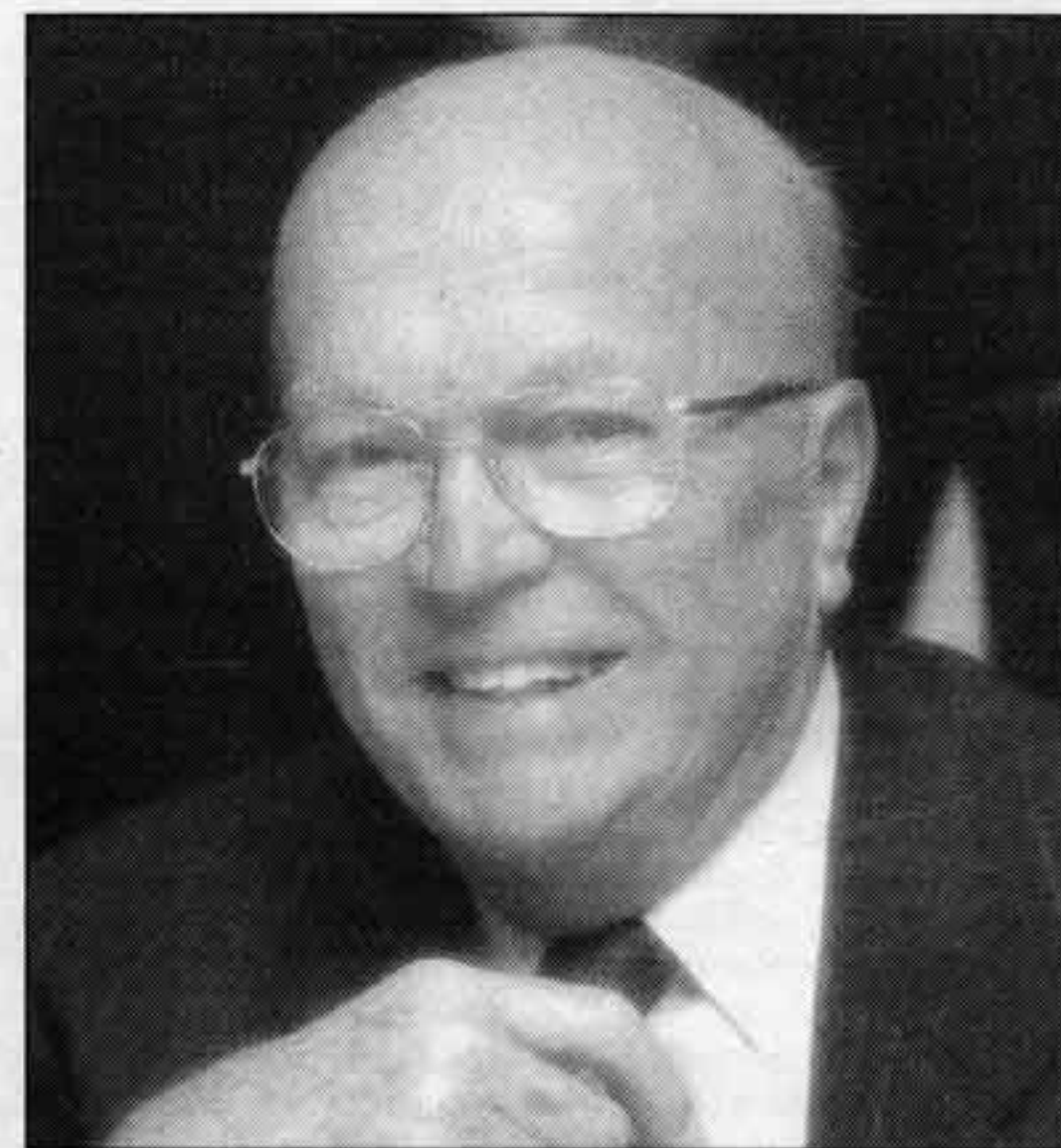
lengthy illness. Ivan cared for her and the family with great devotion.

In 1996, Ivan married June, a widow, at Troon Methodist Church. They had met as colleagues for she worked in the careers service at Camborne. She was born at Hayle and her late first husband, Gerald Bray, was a member of the Holman Climax Male Voice Choir.

Ivan, as a young man, was active in the life of St Peter’s Church, Newlyn, and when June joined Trinity Methodist Church following their marriage he helped with fund-raising and community service there.

A keen badminton player and motorcyclist in his youth, Ivan later became a skilled artist in oils. His home contains many local scenes, one of which won a place in a London exhibition a few years ago.

Much admired for his good sense, patience and steadfast friendship, he will be greatly missed.



□ Ivan Balls.