



GRAVE OF THE MONTH/NOV 2025

Ernest Gilbert Kimber 1860–1939



Ernest was born in 1860 at Coombe in Hertfordshire. His parents were Richard Owen Kimber and Susannah Gilbert Peaty. His father Richard had a 350 acre farm and he was 1 of 12 children.

In 1885 Ernest married Frances Barnard Lily in Newbury. They had 2 children, Gilbert and Elsie.

Ernest ran a shop called 'Kimbers Grocery and Provision Merchants', informally called 'Kimbers Corner' on the corner of Pound Street and Bartholomew Street, which he managed from 1906-1939. Formerly it was a branch of Messrs. Church Bros., for whom he was the manager. In 1910 his wife Frances passed away. His son Gilbert married and moved away to Bristol and his daughter Elsie stayed at the family home at Bartholomew House with her father Ernest.



Elsie went on to become the first woman Mayor of Newbury since the borough was created in 1596. She was elected in 1932. Ernest passed away at his home from cerebral apoplexy (stroke) and Aortic Stenosis on 21st November 1939. Following her father's death Elsie took over the business until 1953.



Researched By Michaela Peters - FNRC - November 2025