

Biographical Record

Frank Wilkins PERRENS (1891 – 1987)

Represented the Warwickshire Guild on the Central Council from 1927 - 1945, the Coventry Diocesan Guild from 1945 - 1958, was a Life member in 1958 and attended 48 meetings

Frank Wilkins Perrens was born on 29th November 1891 in the Walsall area.

He learned to ring at Willenhall in January 1910 and rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples, at Wood Green in November 1910. He rang his first peal as conductor (his third peal) also Grandsire Triples at Willenhall in October 1911.

He was attached to the band at Sutton Coldfield from 1915 until his move to Coventry in 1920. He joined the band at Allesley in 1921 and rang there until 1978 when failing sight made him decide it was unsafe to continue ringing. He was tower captain there 1950-1963.

He was Ringing Master of the Coventry Guild 1951-1956 when he became Guild President until 1964. He was the first lay President of the Guild.

He rang 497 tower bell peals, of which he conducted 168 and 148 handbell peals, of which he conducted 52.

He was a talented conductor, calling the first peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major ever rung, at Nuneaton on 4th February 1928. He conducted several other peals for the first time ever.

He rang in several notable performances: the first peal of Stedman Cinques in hand in Birmingham in 1916; an unconduted peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at the Bull Ring in April 1933; Stedman Cinques in hand, silent and non-conducted in December 1933 when the ringers, apart from the ringer of the tenors, had drawn for pairs of bells immediately before the peal.

He was Central Council Librarian from 1959-1969.

He was a keen sportsman, being captain of his college football team. He also played badminton and played tennis at county level.

He taught mathematics at Coventry Technical College, later transferring to Woodlands Comprehensive School.

He died on 28th March 1987 and his funeral was held at Allesley on 2nd April.