

# Biographical Record

## **Doris Eileen COLGATE (1915 – 2012)**

Represented the Ladies' Guild on the Central Council from 1953 to 1983  
and attended 47 meetings

Doris Colgate was born in Sevenoaks on 22 March 1915, and was educated at Lady Boswell's School and Tonbridge Girls' Grammar School.

Doris learned to ring at Sevenoaks becoming a member of KCACR in 1934 and progressed fairly rapidly to peal ringing, ringing her first peal (on handbells) 10 February 1937, followed closely by her second (tower bell) peal 20 February 1937. In total she rang 529 peals, mostly for KCACR, but with 13 for SRCY and 54 for the Sussex CA. Amongst her ringing achievements she rang in a silent and non-conducted peal of Yorkshire at Sevenoaks 26 February 1977, and circled four 8-bell towers to peals.

As a ringer, Doris was outstanding in her generation. She was a first class handler of heavy bells (unusual at the time, when few ladies used to ring round the back end) and a reliable method ringer who made few mistakes. She was also a competent handbell ringer. She was at home ringing spliced surprise with the leading ringers of her day or helping a band of learners with basic methods.

She served as secretary of the Tonbridge District of the KCACR from 1953 to 1960, and for many years was District representative on the General Committee.

She was a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, and was prominent in the Ladies Guild, which she joined in 1937. She was Secretary of the Ladies Guild from 1951 to 1970, President from 1974 to 1976, and elected Honorary Life Member in 1981.

During her period as Central Council representative for the Ladies Guild, she took the minutes of Council meetings for a number of years and, subsequently, detailed notes for the Editor of *The Ringing World* which formed the basis of the reports published in that journal.

Doris was nominally a 'Secretary/shorthand typist' however nowadays she would probably be called PA to the Chief Executive. Her job was in London, and as retirement age approached, she was asked to continue working because of her value to the company. Her condition for acceptance (which she did not think would be met) was that she would be provided with a first class season ticket to make her commute more bearable: the offer was accepted with alacrity.

Her service to St Nicholas' church was a central part of Doris' life. She was a lifelong worshipper there, a member of the band of ringers from the early 1930s and tower secretary for almost six decades. For many years she was secretary of the PCC, and after her delayed retirement, regularly helped in the church office. It is also interesting to note that she was a Governor of Lady Boswell's School well into her 80s.



Doris died on September 11 2012, at Sevenoaks in Kent. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on Friday 28 September at St Nicholas Sevenoaks. Service ringing was provided by the Sevenoaks band with a wide range of visitors including members of the Central Council, the Cumberlands, the KCACR and the Ladies Guild.

*Her obituary appeared in The Ringing World on 16th November 2012*