

Biographical Record

Nicholas John DAVIES (1941 - 2006)

Represented the Kent County Association on the Central Council
from 1996 - 2001 and attended 6 meetings

Nicholas John Davies was born in Datchet in Berkshire on 22nd November 1941. He learned to ring at St. Alphege (now known as the Urban Studies Centre) in Canterbury in 1957, being taught to ring by Derek Chatfield and John Cooper. His first peal, in four methods, took place there on 8th February 1958. His first peal as conductor was also there, when he called three Minor methods on 12th November 1960. He rang 277 peals in total, 149 of those being for the Kent County Association.

In the early 1960s Nick rang in several notable performances: on 9th December 1962 he rang 10,944 Rutland Surprise Major at Quex Park; on 20th February 1963 he rang 15,840 Plain Bob Minor, ringing 5-6 on handbells; on 6th July 1963 he rang 10,561 Pudsey Surprise Major at Loughborough Bell Foundry; all these three long length peals were records at the time they were rung. On 13th July 1963 he rang 5152 Spliced Surprise Major in 16 methods, including 15 new methods, at Ashover.

Nick was educated at King's School, Canterbury and while he was there he founded the King's School Bellringing Society in 1958. While he was at University in London he was the Secretary of the University of London Society. Later he held many offices in the Kent County Association: District Ringing Master (Ashford District) in 1967, District Chairman 1980-1987 and County Chairman 1989-1992. He was also Ringing Master of the Guild of Medical Ringers 1991-1994.

He was on the Bell Restoration Committee of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers for over 20 years and became Bells Adviser to the Canterbury DAC. Whilst on the Central Council he advised ringers how to react to complaints about bell noise.

Nick rang at St. Alphege in Canterbury 1957-1960, being tower captain there 1959-1960; other towers to which he was subsequently attached are St. Mary, Ashford, St. Olave, Hart Street in London, Mersham, Lydd and Canterbury Cathedral.

He was a dentist by profession, working in Ashford and later in his own practice in Lydd. Nick's other interests included bell history, railways, model engineering and walking. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland.

He died on 20th May 2006.

Obituary: in The Ringing World, 2006, page 656

