

Biographical Record

Shirley Maureen DREW, (née Parsons) (1934 - 2008)

Was an Honorary Member of the Central Council, from 1971 to 1981
and attended 7 meetings

Shirley Maureen Drew was born in Portsmouth on 12th March 1934.

She learned to ring at Charlton Kings, Cheltenham in Gloucestershire in 1953 and later was attached to Eckington in Worcestershire from 1967. Her first peal was Stedman Triples at Bishops Cleeve on 22nd January 1955. She rang in a peal of 143 Minor methods on 2nd December 1963 at Castle Eaton. 143 methods was a record at that time. She rang her first peal as conductor on 26th November 1972 at Bredons Norton. Shirley rang 284 tower bell peals and conducted 1 of them; she rang 97 handbell peals and called one of those, making a total of 381 peals, conducted 2.

Shirley was elected a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1959.

She served as the Southern Branch Secretary of the Worcester and Districts Association 1969-1971.

Shirley was a member of the Central Council Publications committee 1981-1983.

She worked in the Civil Service and moved to Cheltenham when her office was moved there from London in 1953; her place of work later became known as GCHQ. She worked there until 1967, when she became a full-time housewife. The family moved to Essex in 1982 and Shirley's time was taken up with running a store and post office.

In 1983 they retired to Norfolk, where Shirley's husband Geoff had lived before their marriage. Once again they became very involved with ringing, helping to get Hingham bells ringing again. Shirley was elected President of the Norwich Diocesan Association, a post she held 1995-1998.

She died on 1st February 2008.

Her obituary appeared in The Ringing World on page 428 in 2008.

