

# Biographical Record

## **Martin Daniel FELLOWS(1945 – 2008)**

Represented the Worcester and Districts Association on the Central Council from 1972 to 1986 and attended 15 meetings

Martin Daniel Fellows was born in Stourbridge on 21st April 1945. His father, Arthur Daniel Fellows, was also a ringer, as was his younger brother Michael, who at one time was the youngest person to ring 1000 peals. Martin learned to ring at St. Thomas, Stourbridge in June 1957.

He rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples, at Kinver on 9th May 1959. He rang his 1000th peal at Stourbridge on June 30th 1984. In total he rang 1597 tower bell peals and conducted 794 of them. He rang 17 handbell peals and called 6 of those, making his grand totals of 1614 peals rung and 800 conducted. Notable performances were on 27th March 1965 when he rang 11,520 Yorkshire Surprise Major at Hanbury; 15th May 1965 when he rang 16,368 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Philip's Birmingham and 12th November 1966 when he rang 15,699 Stedman Cinques at St. Philip's Birmingham. The last two peals were records at the time.

Martin rang at Stourbridge all his ringing life, being Ringing Master there from 1984 until his death and Tower Keeper there from 1964 until his death. He was also Tower Keeper at Brierley Hill from 1992 until he died. He organised the augmentation of St. Thomas Stourbridge to 12 in 1982 and in 1999 he was responsible for the remodelling of the ring. He circled the tower at Stourbridge to peals on 20th December 1975.

He served the Worcester and Districts Association in a variety of ways: as Northern Branch Secretary 1969-1974; as General Secretary 1974-1987; on the Belfry Advisory Panel 1963-2003 and as clerk to the trustees of the Belfry Repair Fund 1974-1996.

Martin was a solicitor; he conducted a peal to mark his admission as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Stourbridge on February 1st 1984. The footnote to a peal he rang at Hereford Cathedral on 8th January 2005 stated that Martin was the first Town Clerk of Hereford to take part in a peal on the Cathedral bells. He held the post of Town Clerk for several years. Martin was also a Freeman of the City of London.

Martin arranged several successful ringing tours overseas: one such was a journey from west to east across Canada and another was a tour down the eastern seaboard of the United States of America. All the arrangements were meticulously made and ringers had the opportunity to go sightseeing as well as to ring peals and ring in a variety of towers.

Martin died on 28th April 2008.

*Obituaries in The Ringing World in 2008, pp 510, 708-9.*

