

Biographical Record

Roger Geoffrey GREEN (1946 – 2013)

Represented the Leeds University Society on the Central Council from 1973 to 1974 and from 2009 to 2011 and attended 3 meetings

Roger was born in Sheffield on 17th November 1948, but grew up in Gloucester where he spent seven years as a Gloucester Cathedral Chorister. He was taught to ring by his father, but only became a keen ringer when he arrived at Leeds University in 1967 to study French. This coincided with the arrival of a large group of able and enthusiastic students, and with ringing at local practices every night of the week and regular peal opportunities, his ringing progress was rapid.

He called his first peal only a few months after ringing his first peal in April 1968, calling several more in quick succession, laying the foundation for a significant conducting career. In his total of 605 peals rung (601 tower, 4 handbell) he conducted 350 (347 tower and 3 handbell). The majority of his peals were rung for the Yorkshire Association (412) or Leeds University Society (148). This total included many challenging compositions, which he usually conducted – three peals of 165 Spliced Major, and 24 of 23-spliced Major, including Chandler's (four times) and Leary's compositions, both of which had, at the time, only been rung by one or two other bands.

Although most of his peals were on eight bells, he did spend a few years as a member of a regular 12 bell peal band, and in 2001 rang the complete surprise maximus alphabet in one year. He also conducted 40 people's first peals, something which gave him immense satisfaction.

He was a very fine conductor, but acknowledged his limitations, there were far better ringers of heavy bells than himself, and others may have been better at composition, or on hand-bells. However, his real gift was in encouraging, motivating and enabling others to achieve things far beyond what they would have otherwise considered impossible.

Roger represented Leeds University Society on the Central Council 1973-1974, and the Yorkshire Association 2009-2011.

Roger loved a ringing 'project', whether fast-tracking a promising new learner through their first quarter or peal, or one of his multi-spliced challenges, which were almost always rung with people who were neither prolific peal ringers or experienced in the vast amounts of learning required.

His projects were not just about peal ringing, he also organised courses, training days and countless outings and trips, culminating in two epic trips for Leeds University past members and their children to Australia (2004) and Canada (2006).

His love of planning, record keeping and analysis led to him being Yorkshire Association peal secretary for 12 years, and although not claiming to be a computer

expert, he created a data base for peal recording which is still in use. Following his retirement from teaching in 2001, he transferred the details of all YACR peals rung between 1875 and 1983 to complete the computerised record. He was also the report editor from 1995 to 1999.

More recently, being Western Branch secretary and chairman, he had focused on local ringing, and following a visit to Worcester Cathedral, he helped set up a new ringing centre in Bradford that he hoped would provide a central training facility for the whole branch.

Away from ringing, Roger had demonstrated his gift for motivating others in his day job, which was in teaching. His passion for all things French, his life-long love of choral music and his amazing talent for organisation meant he was always looking for new ways to introduce his pupils to new experiences, whether cultural trip to Paris or Rome, or a performance of Brahms' Requiem (sung in German, of course).

Roger was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2010. He died on 11th May 2013. He donated his body to Hull York Medical School, and a memorial service was held at Ilkley on 31st May 2013.



His obituary appeared in The Ringing World 16th August 2013.