

# Biographical Record

## Clare HIGBY (néé CHAMBERS) (1941 – 2007)

Represented the Ladies Guild from 1981 to 1995 and attended 14 Council meetings

Clare was born in Swansea in 1941, the daughter of a police fire officer. Her father's occupation entailed some travelling around different parts of Wales before the family settled in Knebworth in Hertfordshire when Clare was 7 years old. Shortly after this, Clare learned how to ring, being taught by her father and Jim Childs, the Tower Captain at Knebworth.

Her first peal, Plain Bob Minor, was on 20th June 1959 at Aspley End. She rang 72 peals in total, all on tower bells. After she married Peter, the family lived in Hemel Hempstead for a short while, then moved on to Redhill and finally, in 1969, they moved to Chilcompton in Somerset. Although Clare's peal total was not great, she rang peals in such methods as Bristol Surprise Royal and 25 methods Spliced Surprise Minor. She preferred to spend her ringing time devoted to training learners and helping on ringing courses locally. She was Ringing Master of the Frome Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association for many years.

Clare was a very prominent member of the Ladies Guild. apart from being the Central Council representative for 15 years, she was the National Secretary from 1997-2003 and the President from 1980-1982. While Clare was on the Council she was a member of the Biographies Committee from 1987-1990.

She enjoyed going on ringing tours and had visited New Zealand and Australia and rung in several places there.

Clare's interests, apart from ringing, were mainly centred on music. She was a talented musician, playing a variety of instruments, including the organ, which she would play at church, where she also sang in the choir. She was a great supporter of Chilcompton church, being a Sunday School teacher and helping to arrange flowers too. She enjoyed ringing tunes on handbells, ringing four in hand. She taught children to ring handbells and ran two handbell ringing groups.

Clare worked with deaf children as an audiologist, having attended the National College of Teachers of the Deaf.

She died on August 25th 2007 and her funeral was on 6th September at Chilcompton. Numerous quarter peals were rung to her memory.

*Obituaries in The Ringing World in 2007 on pages 875 and 892.*