

Biographical Record

Stephen John IVIN (1937 – 2010)

Represented the Oxford University Society on the Central Council from 1960-1968, was an Honorary member from 1970-1980 and attended 14 Council meetings

Stephen John Ivin was born on 21st December 1937 in Northampton. He learned to ring in 1947 at Houghton Conquest, being taught by Mr. W. Watts. He rang his first peal, Plain Bob Minor, at Stagsden on 26th August 1949. On August 12th 1954 he scored his first peal as conductor, ringing Plain Bob Major at Maulden. A few days after his 18th birthday he became the youngest person to conduct a peal of Spliced Surprise Major, at Maulden.

Among his notable ringing performances was a peal of 14,560 Yorkshire Surprise Major (the then record), which he conducted, at Loughborough Bell Foundry Campanile in September 1957. He rang in 16559 Grandsire Caters at Appleton on 10th February 1968. He took part in the record peal of 9960 London No.3 Surprise Royal at Daventry on 19th September 1970.

He rang a peal of Littleport Little Surprise Royal on handbells at Watford on 24th January 1972, it being the first peal of Little Surprise to be rung on handbells. He rang 7-8 in a handbell peal of 22 Spliced Surprise Royal at Watford on 11th April 1973, it being the greatest number of methods rung at that time in a peal of Royal on handbells. He rang his 1000th peal on 25th August 1978 at Meldreth. His 1500th peal was at St. Thomas, Oxford on 31st July 2006. His final peal total was 1522.

He was said to be one of the foremost composers of his day, particularly of peals of London Surprise Major, which he also enjoyed ringing. He rang 309 of them, of which he conducted 240. He rang 163 (conducted 91) peals of London No.3 Surprise Royal.

He served on the Methods Committee of the Central Council from 1966-1981; he was a member of the Central Council Computer Co-ordination Committee from 1973-1981. He was Peal Secretary of the Bedfordshire Association from 1956 – 1963 and from 1976-1980.

He was instrumental in the projects to augment the bells at St. Mary Magdalen in Oxford and St Thomas in Oxford both in planning the work and doing much of it himself. He featured in 'Personalities of the Exercise' on page 541 of *The Ringing World* on August 11th 1961.

He died on 7th January 2010. A memorial service for him was held at St. Thomas, Oxford on February 22nd 2010.

Tributes appeared in The Ringing World for April 30th, May 7th and May 14th 2010.

