

Biographical Record

Jean KELLY (nee PERCY) (1933 – 2012)

Represented for the Ladies Guild on the Central Council from 1999 – 2002, the Lancashire Association from 2004 – 2008, and attended 6 Council meetings

Jean Kelly was born on March 22nd 1933 at Epsom in Surrey She learned to ring at Christ Church, Epsom Common in 1947 when she was still at school, being taught by Frank Oakshott. In 1952 she went up to Liverpool University, where she read geography, leaving with a first class honours degree. At that time there was no university society in Liverpool so she did not do much ringing then. After leaving Liverpool she returned to the south of England and became a member of the band at Chalfont St. Giles from 1960-2000. She was Ringing Master at Chalfont St. Giles for many years. In 2000 she and her husband Alan went to live at Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria and Jean rang there until her death in 2012.

Jean's first peal was at Stoke Poges on 19th November 1969, when she rang Stedman Triples. She rang a total of 72 peals and a great many quarter peals. She regarded Sunday service ringing as being the most important part of her ringing life, but she enjoyed ringing at many different churches and had rung in towers in Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and the USA as well as in many churches in the UK. She enjoyed going with friends on ringing holidays and visiting as many different towers as she could.

She held several offices in the Guilds in whose area she lived. She was deputy ringing master in the East Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. She was a leading member of the Ladies Guild of which she was President from 1999-2001. She enjoyed helping on ringing courses and was one of the longest serving helpers on the annual Hereford course. In addition she had helped on other courses, including Sparsholt and Whirlow Grange.

At Chalfont St. Giles Jean had been a church warden for 10 years. She also helped in the local Open Air Museum there, when it was open to the public and for school parties.

Before retirement Jean had worked as a cartographic editor. This meant travelling far and wide to map places all over the world.

She died on December 9th 2012 and her funeral was held at St. Mary's, Kirkby Lonsdale on December 19th.

An obituary for her appeared in The Ringing World on page 216 in 2013.

