

Biographical Record

Denis MOTTERSHEAD (1932 – 2006)

Represented the Chester Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1969 – 1974
and attended 4 meetings

Denis Mottershead was born in Cheshire in August 1932.

He learned to ring at Wilmslow, possibly because his father was a ringer there; Denis rang there on Sundays throughout his life.

He rang his first peal on 12th February 1949 and his thousandth on 25th September 1999. Amongst his notable achievements was ringing the tenor at Liverpool Cathedral to a peal. He also rang the tenor at Worcester Cathedral to a peal.

He was renowned for arranging peals of a high standard, but he was also known for setting a peal up if a trip was made, particularly if he had made the trip himself. Many of the peals he arranged were not organised until the night before and he had a knack of being able to obtain bells for peals which were usually very hard to get. He enjoyed ringing peals of Yorkshire. In 1952 he arranged and conducted a peal rung by the then youngest band ever to ring a peal of Maximus.

He enjoyed inventing methods, some of which were quite strange: one had three hunt bells. He was fond of ringing Kent Treble Bob at his local practice.

He rang 1124 peals, many of which he conducted.

He was considered to be a true ringing character, renowned for his good striking and his ability to ring heavy bells well. He was a member of the Rambling Ringers and enjoyed their annual cycling tours.

He was a physicist, working near Preston, where he had a flat to live in during the week, returning to Wilmslow at the weekends.

He died on 28th February 2006 and his funeral was on March 9th at St Bartholomew, Wilmslow. Many peals and quarter peals were rung in his memory.

*Obituaries in 'The Ringing World' in 2006
on page 411.*