

Biographical Record

John Thomas PARSONS (1945 – 1995)

Represented the Lancashire Association on the Central Council from 1992 to 1993
and attended two Council meetings

John Thomas Parsons was born on December 9th 1945 in the Preston area of Lancashire.

He learned to ring at Blackburn and joined the Cathedral band, where he learned the basics of change ringing with the help of John Halliwell and Arthur Tomlinson. He attended Blackburn Grammar School. Later, during his time at Bristol University reading Electrical Engineering, he enjoyed ringing in the Bristol towers and ringing peals with other students there. Later on he rang at Whittle-le-Woods, where he taught a new band as the bells had been silent for some time.

His first peal was on 17th March 1962; it was Grandsire Triples at St. Peter's, Bolton. His first peal as conductor was at Accrington on 14th April 1963 when he called Plain Bob Doubles. John rang a total of 198 peals, of which he conducted 79. He called the only hand bell peal which he rang: Kent Treble Bob Major.

He was Treasurer of the Lancashire Association from the 1984 AGM until he had to resign due to ill-health in 1993. He was Hon. Auditor of the Central Council from 1993-1994.

He had quite a varied career: when he left Bristol, he became a graduate trainee with British Rail. Then for a period he worked away from home in Germany, teaching maths and physics in a secondary school. For a while he had a job catering in France, but later returned to work for British Rail and studied accountancy at the same time. Finally he worked in various places in Lancashire using his accountancy qualifications.

One of John's hobbies was railway photography. Many of his photographs were published in railway magazines; he also made videos of trains. Another of his interests was Freemasonry.

Sadly he developed motor neurone disease in 1993. Shortly before he died, he presented Whittle-le-Woods church with four weather vanes, one for the top of each pinnacle of the tower. He had the vanes made especially for the tower.

He died, aged 49, on 9th June 1995 and his funeral was held on June 15th at Whittle-le-Woods and he was subsequently interred at St. Andrew, Leyland.

There were obituaries for him in The Ringing World in 1995 on pages 656 and 799.