

Biographical Record

Edgar Charles SHEPHERD (1898 – 1986)

Honorary Member of the Central Council from 1951 - 1969,
Life Member from 1970 - 1986 and attended 27 meetings

Edgar Charles Shepherd was born at Small Heath in the parish of Aston, Birmingham on 7th January 1898.

He learned to ring at Solihull in April 1914.

Later he was attached to Beeston, Nottinghamshire 1923-1926, then he rang at Solihull until 1962. Finally, when he retired, he was attached to Warminster.

He rang his first peal at Solihull, Grandsire Doubles on handbells, on 23rd July 1918 and rang another peal with the same band in the same place 38 years later, this being his 500th.

He rang 706 peals in total, 638 on tower bells and 68 in hand. He conducted 41 tower bell peals and 38 handbell peals. He completed 200 peals on 12 bells on 3rd December 1966.

At the age of 19 as a Lance Corporal he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field while he himself was badly wounded. His wounds stopped him from ringing for four years.

He was Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild 1949-1950; Vice-President for 35 years, from 1951 and Librarian in 1952.

He wrote numerous articles for 'The Ringing World' and several booklets, including: Double Norwich Court Bob Caters in 1947; The Tower Bells of Solihull Church in 1950; St. Martin's Youths in 1953.

He was Vice-President of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild 1971-1986.

He was a competent composer, particularly of Grandsire Caters.

By profession he was a schoolmaster.

He was featured in 'The Ringing World' article 'Servants of the Exercise - No. 12' in March 18th 1960 and another article in the September 7th 1962 edition gives some details of his ringing career.

He died on 30th August 1986 and was cremated. A memorial service was held at St. Denys, Warminster on 6th September .

Obituary in 'The Ringing World' in 1986, page 849 with his peal details on page 898