

Biographical Record

David Alan STRONG (1953 – 2013)

Represented the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1993 to 2002, the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild from 2008 to 2011 and attended 12 meetings

David Alan Strong was born in Birmingham on March 30th 1953. He grew up in Solihull and then went to Keele University where he graduated in Chemistry. He had moved to Dorset by 1975 when he learned to ring at Dorchester, being taught by Richard Duke. He rang at Dorchester until 1984 when he moved to Sherston in Wiltshire when he became a member of the band there. He stayed there until 2002 when he moved to Guernsey and rang at Vale.

David rang his first quarter peal, Grandsire Doubles, on May 1st at Dorchester. His first quarter as conductor came on 16 September 1981 at Martinstown, where he called Plain Bob Minor. He rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples, at Charminster on 17 February 1979, followed by his first as conductor, two Doubles methods, at Sherston on August 3rd 1985. His first peal was notable in that it included four first pealers and was the first for the local band. He rang 159 peals in total, all on tower bells and conducted 9 of them. One notable peal was rung at church of St. Michael with St. Paul at Bath where he rang Surprise Minor in 62 methods on 3 April 1993. He rang at over 1,300 different towers.

David held many positions of responsibility during his ringing career. He was the founder chairman of the Dorset County Association for 1983-1984. After his move to Sherston he became the Assistant Ringing Master of the Chippenham branch of the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association. He was the Ringing Master from 1985-1988, then Chairman from 1989-1991. From 1994-1997, he was Secretary and from 1997-1999 he was the Treasurer. After he moved to Guernsey he was Newsletter Editor for the Channel Islands District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild from 2003-2006 and was the Ringing Master from 2004-2006. He was the Report Editor of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild from 2005-2007 and Vice-Master from 2006-2007; then he was elected Master in 2007 and served two three-year terms.

While he was at Sherston he was the Tower Captain from 1991-1997 and Steeple Keeper from 1986-1990 and again from 1998 - 2001. He was made a Life member of the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association in 2003. David was a consultant to the project when the bells at Alderton in Wiltshire were rehung for the millennium.

David organised the Channel Islands Ringing Festival in 2005. He was a tutor on the Hereford Course from 1994 onwards. He was also a tutor on the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association main training day from 1991 until his death. David wrote a book entitled 'To the Glory of God' about the tower, bells and ringers of the Holy Cross, Sherston Magna, Wiltshire to the end of the second millennium. Whilst a member of the Central Council, David served on the Education Committee from 2008-2011.

David was a chemistry graduate and he taught from 1975-1997. He had many other interests which included cycling, family history and music, particularly playing the organ. He became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists in 2001. He had played the organ at most of the churches where he rang and had been choir master at Dorchester and Vale in Guernsey.

David died on 15th November 2013.

An obituary for David, written by his wife Anne, was published in The Ringing World on 21st February 2014.

