

Biographical Record

JOAN SUMMERHAYES nee Beresford (1932 – 2007)

Represented the Ladies Guild on the Central Council, before her marriage,
from 1963 - 1981 and attended 18 meetings

Joan was born in Lichfield on 5th May 1932.

She was taught to ring at St. Michael's Lichfield in 1946 by George Oliver, as the Cathedral bells were out of action at that time.

She called her own first peal, Grandsire Doubles on an inside bell, on her 15th birthday, 5th May 1947, at Mavesyn Ridware.

She conducted a peal of Stedman Cinques, the first peal on 12 bells for the Ladies Guild, at Leicester Cathedral on 12 September 1964.

She rang in the first non-conducted and silent peal of 6 Spliced Surprise Major at Turner's Hill on 23rd January 1966. The first peal of silent and non-conducted peal of 7 Spliced Surprise Major followed at Sittingbourne on 20th February 1966, and the first peal of silent and non-conducted 8 Spliced Surprise Major on 15th May 1966 at Turner's Hill.

She rang in the first peal of Spliced London Surprise Royal: 1, 2 and 3, at Shoreditch on 27 July 1971.

In 1971, with Jill Staniforth, she became one of the first women to ring a peal at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

She rang a total of 1170 peals, of which she conducted 25. 62 of her peals were on handbells. Included in her peal total are 89 peals of Maximus in 30 different methods and Spliced Maximus in 3 - 36 methods. Her handbell peals included Spliced Surprise Major in 4 - 10 methods.

She was the Senior Steward of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths 1969-1971 and 1977-1978 and was Assistant Secretary 1974-1976.

She was Tower Captain at Egham 1993-1999 and Ringing Master of the Chertsey District 1992-1995.

Later she moved to Devon and finally to Worcester.

She died on 11th September 2007.

