

Biographical Record

Ronald Reginald (Ron) WARFORD (1942 – 2013)

Represented the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1993 until his death in 2013 and attended 18 meetings

Ron was born 19th February 1942 in Selby, Yorkshire. He was taught to ring by his father, Reginald, alongside Barbara Davies and Alan Grundy at Selby in 1955. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1957. He, Barbara and Alan rang their first peal, Plain Bob Minor, on 11th April 1959 (fifty years later to the day the three of them rang a peal of Plain Bob Royal at Selby Abbey to celebrate this anniversary).

In 1967 Ron married and moved to Leeds, where he rang at Chapel Allerton. During this time he was ringing master of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, and then the Leeds branch of the Yorkshire Association when they merged. His children, Conrad and Heather, were born whilst he lived in Leeds.

This period also saw the start of Ron's prolific peal ringing career. The total number of peals he rang was 2064 of which he called 479 (including 35 handbell peals, of which he conducted 29).

Ron spent his working life with the Post Office, later BT, initially as a telephone engineer, then in training. Originally based in Leeds, he was transferred to Newcastle in 1985, taking his family to live in Gosforth, where he was tower captain for 25 years.

Recruitment and teaching was a major aspect of Ron's ringing career. He put unlimited time and energy into teaching at Gosforth, and in 1998 was persuaded to spend three months in Charleston, South Carolina, to teach a band at Grace Episcopal Church. Forty-four people had signed up to learn, and with Ron's teaching, thirty-three of them advanced to solo handling in three months.

Whilst at Gosforth, he was President of the Durham and Newcastle Association from 1998 – 2001 and again from 2007 – 2010, the only person to be re-elected for a second term of office. In 1993 he was elected as a representative on the Central Council, and served on the Education Committee from 1993 to 2001, being its secretary for five of those years. He wrote a book for the Central Council 'Organising an Outing'.

When not ringing, he was an enthusiastic runner and long distance walker, and fund raiser for the Durham and Newcastle Association. On one occasion he walked from Edinburgh Cathedral to Newcastle Cathedral (110 miles) in 36 hours. On another, he did a sponsored 24 hour walk around Gateshead stadium to raise money for St Matthew's, Newcastle.

He was elected a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1971, and was himself responsible for the election of many of the Cumberlands in the North East, including many he had taught himself. For his 60th birthday in 2002, he was especially pleased to ring a Cumberland peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Maximum at Stockton on

Tees in which he rang the treble, and the rest of the band was made up of ladies whom he had proposed or seconded for Cumberlands membership.

He died on 29th April 2013

The funeral at all Saints Church, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the cremation at Newcastle Crematorium were held on Friday 10th May 2013

His obituary appeared in The Ringing World on 10th June 2013

