

Biographical Record

Peter David Clement WENHAM (1927 – 2015)

Peter Wenham was born on 14 December 1927 at Larkhill Garrison, in the Salisbury area, while his father was serving in Hong Kong. In March 1931, when Peter was three years old, the family left England when Peter's father was stationed in Gibraltar for three years. Peter was the eldest child of the family; he had two siblings: Mary was born in 1939 and Martin in 1941. In 1941 Peter left school and became an army apprentice armourer. Peter's early career was in the army, being stationed at various places during the course of his duties. It was while he was in the army that his interest in training started and developed.

He learned to ring at Amesbury in 1944; his first quarter peal followed on 30th August 1945, when Bill Theobald conducted Grandsire Doubles. His first peal, Grandsire Triples, took place at East Tytherley in November 1947. He rang just five peals in total, the last being Grandsire Caters at Daventry in 1988.

Peter and Mary were married in 1959. They lived in Slough at first, but during the course of Peter's career in 'civvy street' – working as an instructor for Ford Motors – they lived in a succession of places: Windsor, Chester-le-Street, Tetbury and Daventry, where Peter became chief instructor at the new Ford College until his retirement.

He was very interested in all forms of teaching, including ringing. Peter was not renowned for ringing peals, but he was very well known for his contributions to The Ringing World. His first letters to The Ringing World appeared in April 1946. His numerous articles were on a wide variety of subjects, but most of them involved some aspect of training, in which he was both interested and experienced.

When the Network for Ringing Training started in 2001 Peter was responsible for handling non-email applications for membership. At the NRT conference in 2002 he supported Phil Gay in leading the group studying using a simulator as a training aid. He was a very active member of the NRT, contributing to discussions on a large variety of topics, including ringing up, ringing trends, standards in handling, ropesight, teaching older learners, dry ropes, clapper silencers, confidence and rhythm and many others. His letters on similar subjects to The Ringing World were always well thought out and pertinent.



He died on August 6th 2015.

His obituary appeared in The Ringing World 18th September 2015, page 947.