

Biographical Record

HARRY MELLOWS WINDSOR M.B.E. (1932 – 2007)

Represented the Coventry Diocesan Guild on the Central Council
in 1959 and from 1963 – 2007 and attended 45 meetings

Harry Mellows Windsor was born on 27th February 1932 at Long Itchington in Warwickshire.

He had his first ringing lesson on 4th July 1949 at Southam, being taught by John Hobley.

During his ringing career he was attached to Southam 1949-1953, Harbury 1953-1959, Wolvey and Burton Hastings 1959-1966 and Harbury from 1966 until his death. He was Tower Captain at Wolvey 1959-1966; Tower Captain at Harbury 1966-1992 and again from 1995 until his death.

His first peal, Grandsire Doubles, which he conducted, was at Hatton on 31st January 1953. The band for that peal averaged 18 years old and all of them were ringing their first peal. He rang a total of 26 peals, the last one being of Stedman Cinques at Coventry Cathedral in 1988, which was the first peal on the bells.

He was Ringing Master of the Coventry Diocesan Guild 1960-1969; General Secretary 1969-1979 and President 1981-1991. He was a Life member from 1981. He chaired the Guild Belfry Maintenance Committee and advised and encouraged churches on maintenance and augmentation of their bells.

He was instrumental in getting the bells at Coventry Cathedral ringing full circle – they had previously been hung for chiming. The Central Council booklet on tower movement was produced based on his work at Coventry Cathedral.

He was a member of the Central Council Towers and Belfries Committee from 1987.

He edited and animated the film ‘Birth of a Bell’. His hobbies included ringing tunes on handbells and investigation of tower oscillation.

By profession, he was an electrical engineer (C.Eng.,M.I.E.E.); he worked for British Thomson Houston at Rugby and later at Automotive Products in Leamington.

He was awarded an M.B.E. in 1994 for service to the Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

He died on 16th August 2007. Following a private family cremation, a memorial service was held at All Saints, Harbury on 29th August.

