

Biographical Record

John Hewitson ATKINSON (1950 – 2014)

Represented the Durham and Newcastle Association on the Central Council
from 1982 to 1987 and attended 4 meetings

John Hewitson Atkinson was born on October 13th 1950 in the southern area of Northumberland. He represented the Durham and Newcastle Association on The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers from 1982-1987. He attended four meetings of the Council.

John lived in Gosforth with his family but learned to ring at Whickham In Durham in the early 1970s, attracted to the tower by a young lady ringer, though the friendship was short-lived. However, John enjoyed ringing and was a gifted learner, soon grasping new methods. He was a quiet and reserved man who kept himself to himself. He enjoyed maths – perhaps that was why he had such an aptitude for mastering new methods. His first peal was of seven Minor methods on 27th December 1976 at Whickham. John rang a total of 8 peals, of which he conducted one: Grandsire Triples. Half of his peals were for the Durham and Newcastle Association and the other half for the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

John became a keen ringer and rang all over the North East. He had trained as an engineer as a result of which he found employment with Marconi at Camberley in Surrey for a while. During this time he rang at Yorktown. He moved back to the North East in the early 1980s and worked for the family business: Hewitson Roofing. In the late 1980s he moved to Bovington to work in the Army library, and he rang at Blandford Forum. He enjoyed his new work very much. He lived at 4, Albert Place, Blandford for twenty two years.

He died on May 18th 2014, aged 63