

Biographical Record

Philip Anthony CORBY (1917-1992)

Represented the London County Association on the Central Council from 1939 to 1945, the Kent County Association from 1951 to 1954 and 1960 to 1981, the Leicester Diocesan Guild from 1954 to 1960, was a Life member from 1981 and attended 39 meetings

Philip Anthony Corby (Phil) was born on 22nd June 1917 at Sutton on the Isle of Ely.

He learned to ring at Langdon Hills in Essex in May 1931, but finding that he could learn change ringing if he went further afield, he used to cycle to Orsett, Stanford-le-Hope and Fobbing in order to learn Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. Visits to Barking placed Grandsire Triples in to his repertoire.

In 1935 he moved to Kent and rang at Beckenham and Penge, where he rang until 1947. His first peal, Plain Bob Royal, was at Cudham on May 30th 1936 and his first as conductor was Plain Bob Major on April 24th 1937. He rang 1269 peals in total, including peals at both St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. He rang several silent and non-conducted peals, including the first silent ones of four and five Spliced Surprise Major.

Phil organised an annual peal tour which became very popular. Later the organisation of this tour was taken over by Tom Lock.

As his work took him around the country he became a Sunday Service ringer in a variety of places including Lewisham (1947-1953), Melton Mowbray (1953-1957), Sevenoaks (1957-1971) and Chiddingstone from 1971 until his death. At each of these towers he spent time teaching learners and encouraging the band to reach a high standard of striking.

Phil held office in most of the places where he rang. In total he attended 39 meetings of the Central Council. He was a Central Council representative for the London County Association from 1939-1945, for the Kent County Association from 1952-1953 and for the Leicester Diocesan Guild from 1954-1959. In 1960 he was again elected as a representative for Kent until 1981 when he was elected a Life member of the Council and also became Vice-President of the Council. In 1984 he was elected President of the Central Council. He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and was its Master in 1967-68.

From 1947-1953 he was the first Peal Secretary of the Kent County Association; he was General Secretary from 1962-1969. Finally he was chairman of the Association from 1978-1981 and also a Vice-President from 1970.

In addition to his very active ringing life, he was a church warden at Chiddingstone and a member of the DAC. He was a Freeman of the City of London and also a Freemason.

Phil's working life was spent in the building industry and he was a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building.



In 1947 he married Lucile Hubbert with whom he rang many peals. They had two children, Andrew and Judith, who both became talented ringers.

In 1961 he was the subject in a *Personalities of the Exercise* article in 'The Ringing World'.

He died on June 9th 1992 and his funeral took place on June 19th at Chiddingstone.

Tributes to him appeared in 'The Ringing World' in 1992 on pages 723 and 724.