

# Biographical Record

## **Frances Vanora Hereward (1948 - 2012)**

Represented the Dorset County Association on the Central Council  
from 2008 to 2010 and attended 1 Council meeting

Vanora was born in Cambridge on 4th February 1948 and brought up in Geneva, where her father was a physicist at CERN. After the Ecole Internationale in Geneva, she went to Newnham College Cambridge and gained a First Class degree in Natural Sciences followed by a PhD.

After further academic work, in the Department of Brewing and Biological Sciences at Heriot-Watt University and the Department of Botany and Zoology at Manchester University, she took a two year Law conversion course at Chester College (while living on a shoestring in a caravan) and worked in legal aid in Moss Side, at the Newham Rights Centre, and then as co-founder of Hereward & Foster in Canning Town where she worked until 1988. Later work included the Public Records Office, the Office for Fair Trading, benefits review panels, and giving advice on release of documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Vanora came to ringing late in life, after she moved to Toller Porcorum in Dorset, when her neighbour (and later husband) Ryk Bugler, encouraged her to take up ringing for the Millennium. She applied herself with enthusiasm to ringing, became involved with local ringing life, including support for bell restoration.

After her husband died, she replaced him as chairman of the Dorset County Association and as Central Council representative. She was the chief local organiser for a striking competition a few weeks before her untimely death. Her ringing performances were modest. Her first and only quarter peal was Plain Bob Minor at Maiden Newton in June 2005.

From her earliest days as a student, she showed a community spirit, in her student days teaching reading to adults with learning difficulty and with the Child Poverty Action Group, and in later years with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dorchester.

In Toller Porcorum she played an active role in village life – she was instrumental in setting up a provident society directed towards maintaining or improving the physical, social and economic infrastructure within the Parish, and up to her death she was trying to ensure the survival of the village post office. She planted snowdrops and daffodils in the verges around the village, and cleared undergrowth from public paths.

In her thirties, while still single, she adopted two children, a daughter from Sri Lanka and a son from India, who moved with her from London to Dorset. In 2006 she married Ryk, only months before he died.

She had an active mind, and many interests. She loved early music, and while in Edinburgh started to build a harpsichord, which she learnt to play. She learnt Urdu, the language of many of her Legal Aid clients. She loved walking, camping and foreign travel.

Vanora had a sharp intellect, a strong sense of justice and a knowledgeable command of subjects close to her heart. She died tragically after falling down stairs on 27 July 2012.

Her memorial service was held on 25th August, followed by a quarter peal in her memory.

