

Biographical Record

Brian Ernest JEFFREY (1937 - 2008)

Represented the East Grinstead and District Guild on the Central Council
from 1966 – 1968 and attended 1 meeting

Brian Ernest Jeffrey was born at Edenbridge in Kent on 13th February 1937, and, apart from a period doing his National Service, he lived there for the rest of his life.

Brian learned to ring at Edenbridge in October 1953 and rang his first peal, Plain Bob Triples, there on 3rd November 1956. His first peal as conductor was Grandsire Triples, also at Edenbridge, on 19th November 1963. He rang 105 peals in total, conducting 19 of them. He met his future wife, Betty Tester, when they both formed part of a group of keen ringing youngsters.

He rang at Edenbridge throughout his ringing career, apart from ringing at the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton during National Service. In addition to ringing at Edenbridge, Brian took over the training of a new band at Cowden and was pleased to conduct the first peal on the bells after they had been overhauled, with three of the new ringers in the band. His ringing priorities were the training of new ringers and the maintenance of the bells at Edenbridge. He was tower captain there from 1963 until shortly before his death, when poor health meant he could no longer ring. One of his sons, Peter, whom Brian had taught to ring, took over the post of tower captain after his father.

Brian was Chairman of the East Grinstead Guild 1961 - 1972. In 1975, he was made a Vice-President of the Guild. He was also a member of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers and the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

After he had completed his National Service in 1958, Brian joined Shell-Mex and BP, based at Shell-Mex House in London. When the Shell and BP companies became separate from each other in 1975, Brian was transferred to BP Oil Ltd. working in the shipping division. He took early retirement in 1987.

Brian was an enthusiastic cyclist, particularly enjoying cycling holidays, often with ringing included. With one of his sons he cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats in aid of charity.

He died on 13th May 2008 and his funeral took place on May 28th. at Edenbridge

His obituary appeared in The Ringing World in 2008 on page 852.

