

# Biographical Record

## Charles Henry KIPPIN (1905 – 1995)

Represented the Surrey Association on the Central Council from 1930 to 1945, was an honorary member from 1946 to 1949, represented the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild from 1949 to 1960 and attended 20 meetings.

Charles Kippin was born at Beddington, Surrey, on 31 August 1905 and educated at Wallington Grammar School. He joined the Civil Service (Inland Revenue) on leaving school and remained there for the rest of his career, serving in various London offices and also at Southampton and Winchester. He married Jessie, daughter of William Melville, a member of Alf Pulling's band at Holy Trinity Guildford, in 1933, and they had two children, Robert C (Chris) and Hilary. On retirement from the Civil Service he remained in Hampshire. He died on 16 June 1995 at Bishopstoke, Hants.

Charles learned to ring at Beddington in April 1920 under the tutelage of Alf Trappitt. Frank Darby was a fellow pupil. Charles made rapid progress and rang his first peal, Stedman Caters, on 5 November 1921, at Beddington. He was elected captain of the Beddington band later in the 1920s, and under his leadership great strides were made in the development of Surprise Royal ringing. Charles conducted the first peals of London No 3 (4 Feb 1933), Bristol (10 Feb 1934), Superlative No 2 (21 Sep 1935) and 4-Spliced (those three methods plus Cambridge) (18 Jan 1936), all at Beddington. Further progress towards twelve-bell ringing was hampered by the decision that Beddington tower was not strong enough to accommodate a suggested augmentation, but London Surprise Maximus (later pealed as Londinium in 1959) was practised under Charles's leadership at Croydon in 1940 until the wartime ban on ringing came into effect.

During the war the family voluntarily evacuated to Hampshire, the move subsequently becoming permanent. From 1944 to 1946 Charles was a member of the band at Wonston, but in 1946 a move to Southampton began a long association with St Michael's which lasted until a further move to Farnborough, Hants, in 1962. The incumbent at St Michael's was Kenneth Felstead, and with his enthusiasm the bells were soon augmented from eight to ten. Between 1950 and 1960 progress in Surprise Royal ringing mirrored that made in Beddington in the 1930s, and peals in all of the same methods, including 4-Spliced, were rung. After that Charles's enthusiasm for peal ringing waned somewhat, but he continued to ring a few each year. His last peal, bringing his total to 620, was Stedman Caters at East Meon in April 1991, at the age of 85.

Charles was a noted heavy-bell ringer. He rang the 53-cwt tenor at St Mary-le-Bow to a peal of Kent TB Major in April 1926 at the age of 20, after meeting short for a twelve-bell peal during the general strike: the peal was later withdrawn due to falseness. He rang the ninth to the last peal on the ten bells at St James's Bermondsey, already regarded as unringable in 1923, and in 1929 the tenor to one of the last peals on the subsequently-unringable ten at St

Sepulchre, Snow Hill, London (since restored and augmented). As an active ringer in the London area before the war Charles also rang peals at a number of London rings lost in the war and subsequently, such as St John Wilton Road, St Nicholas Deptford, St Stephen Clapham Park and St Dunstan-in-the-East.

Charles's most significant contribution to the work of the Council was his membership of the Methods Committee from 1952 to 1959. During this time the Committee formulated its Report on Method Extension, subsequently adopted, to which Charles made a major contribution, some of it before election to the Committee. He was noted as a controversial speaker at Council meetings, arguing, for example, for the acceptance of the first peals rung on the nine bells at Basingstoke, for the first peal of Surprise to include a single and for a record length of Cambridge S Major rung with sixth's place bobs, all of which he conducted in the late 1940s.

Charles was at various times a resident member of the Surrey Association, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild and the Guildford Diocesan Guild. He was General Secretary of the Surrey Association from 1927 to 1937. He was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1923 and was a member for 72 years.



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