

Biographical Record

Douglas Anthony Roland MAY (1940 – 2007)

Represented the Guildford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1963 to 1971
and attended 8 Council meetings

Douglas Anthony Roland May was born on November 14th 1940 at East Clandon in Surrey. He learned to ring at West Clandon in 1956, being taught by George Grover. He continued to ring at West Clandon until 1963. Subsequently he was attached to the following towers: Old Woking from 1964-1965; West Clandon from 1966-1976; Compton, Surrey from 1996-2003 and Ewhurst from 2003 – 2007.

Douglas's first peal, which he also conducted, was at Ockham on 20th October 1957; the average age of the band was 16 years and it was the first peal for all of them. In total he rang 125 peals, of which he called 55. All his peals were on tower bells.

He was Master of the London University Society in 1961 and Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild from 1962-1966 and again from 1969-1971. During his first stint as Master of the Guildford Guild, he inspired many people to contribute towards the provision of the ring of ten bells at the new Guildford Cathedral. An article appeared on page 187 in *The Ringing World* about the Guildford Guild Dinner in 1970 when Douglas was the Master of the Guild.

Douglas was a member of the Central Council Biographies Committee from 1969-1972. He was a member of the Guildford Diocesan Advisory Committee in 1970.

He was educated at Woking Grammar School and then at University College, London, after which he worked as an insurance broker, eventually becoming a partner in his own insurance business.

Douglas was very involved in the life of the local community. He was on Guildford Borough Council for 22 years, being Mayor in 1994 and an Honorary Alderman in 1995. He was also interested in the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford and among his other interests was football; he was a supporter of Chelsea Football Club.

He died on 24th February 2007 and his funeral took place at Cranleigh on March 9th.

His obituary for him appeared in The Ringing World on page 352 in 2007.