

Biographical Record

Harold Walter ROGERS (1916 - 2012)

Represented the London County Association on the Central Council from 1946 to 1999, was a Life member from 2000 until his death in 2012 and attended 64 Council meetings

Harold was born on 17th November 1916 at Halesworth in Suffolk. In 1930 he was taught to ring at Chediston by Frederick Lambert. He rang at both Chediston and Halesworth from 1930 – 1939. For a while he rang in Ipswich and later, for the rest of his life, he rang at Isleworth in Middlesex, where he was tower master from 1945 until his death. He and Olive, his wife, also rang at Southwark Cathedral on Sundays. His first peal, mixed doubles, was at Huntingfield on 23rd April 1938 and his first as conductor was Grandsire Caters at Isleworth on June 1st 1946.

Harold rang several notable peals, including four peals over 10,000 changes long. He rang several of the heavy London tenors to peals, including Southwark and Bow. He circled Isleworth to peals 33 times and circled Inveraray once, being only the second person to do so. He conducted peals from Minor to Maximus. He rang in the first peal of Surprise Major on tower bells in the American continent on June 12th 1973 and rang in the first ten bell peal in Canada at Westminster Abbey, Mission City on June 17th 1973. He rang in the first churchwardens' peal of Surprise Major at St. Mary's Reading on 22nd May 1983. Harold's 1000th peal was rung on October 11th 1998 at Isleworth, where he rang over half his peals. He rang 763 peals with his wife, Olive. He rang 85 peals after his 90th birthday, exceeding any previous records of nonagenarians ringing peals. In total rang 1,192 peals, of which he conducted 143.

He was a prominent member of the London County Association and was a committee member from 1939 until the Association ceased to exist. He was the General Secretary for eighteen years and the Master from 1967-1970 and from 1976-1979. He also produced the London County Association's Annual Report for most years between 1948 and 2001. He was a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths for fifty-five years.

While he was on the Central Council Harold served on the Public Relations Committee for 25 years and the Ringing Centre Committee for 5 years. He was also a member of the Council Centenary Project Committee. When he was on the Public Relations Committee he produced a set of display boards for use in the recruitment of ringers and other P.R. exercises.

When Harold reached his thousandth peal an article about him was published in The Ringing World on January 15th 1999. A further article about Harold, for his 90th birthday, appeared on the front page of The Ringing World on November 24th 2006.

Harold served Isleworth church as a member of the PCC for many years, ten of which he was PCC Secretary. He was also churchwarden for several years.



Harold worked as an engineer and company director, being a member of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Publications.

He died, aged 95, on 17th February 2012 and his funeral was held at St. Mary's church, Chediston Suffolk, where he was buried, on February 29th 2012. A memorial service for him was held at Isleworth, where he rang for a great many years, on 15th March, 2012.

Obituaries and tributes to him appeared in The Ringing World 2012 on April 6th 2012 on pages 337-338, 342 and 355-356.