

Biographical Record

Wilfrid Farrington MORETON, M.B.E. (1924 -2006)

Represented the Hereford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1947 to 1959, was an Honorary Member from 1960 to 1963, and represented the Yorkshire Association from 1963 to 1988, was a Life Member of the Council from 1988 to 2006 and attended a total of 52 meetings

Wilfrid Farrington Moreton was born on July 31st 1924 at Flamborough in Yorkshire where he lived until the family moved to Herefordshire when he was eight years old.

He was taught to ring at All Saints Church in Hereford by Charles Sadler. His first peal was Grandsire Triples, which he rang at Holme Lacy on April 15th 1939. His first peal as conductor, also Grandsire Triples, came three months later at Burghill on 22nd July. In 1966 he rang several peals of silent and non-conducted Spliced Surprise Major. He rang his 1000th peal at Darlington on September 23rd 1967. There was a report of this in *The Ringing World* on page 752 in 1967 and the peals were listed on page 844 in 1968. He rang around 1560 peals in total, many of which he conducted and many of which were rung on handbells. On May 15th 1971 he rang in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, at Birmingham Cathedral, in which all the ringers had rung over 1000 peals. His 500th peal for the Yorkshire Association was at Wakefield on December 29th 1979. He rang in a number of notable peals, some of which are listed in the appreciation of his life. On April 15th 1952 he rang five peals in a day at Llanfihange Rhydithon with five other ringers.

While he was on the Council he served on many of the Council's committees: Sunday Service and Education Committee 1959-1984; Standing Committee 1969-1972; Publications Committee 1971-1975; Administrative Committee 1972-1978. He was chairman of the Education Committee 1969-1978.

When he went up to Oxford he became Master of the Oxford University Society in 1947 and Vice-President in 1950. He was General Secretary of the Yorkshire Association 1964-1971 and President of the Yorkshire Association 1984-1990. He was Annual Report Editor 1973-1979.

Wilfrid was an acclaimed teacher and it was he who inaugurated the Hereford Course which was run first in 1963. Many hundreds of ringers have benefited from this course over the years. He was proud of having taught his three children to ring and the fact that he conducted the first peal for each of them.

Wilfrid was a schoolmaster by profession, teaching divinity, also, in his early years, helping out with rugby football. He spent his entire career teaching at one school, Normanton Grammar School, and was Deputy Head there at the time of his retirement in 1984.

He died on 13th November 2006 and his funeral, for his family only, took place on November 20th. A Requiem Mass was said for him at Wakefield Cathedral on November 24th and a Memorial Service was held on February 3rd 2007.

An appreciation of his life appeared in The Ringing World 2007 on pages 47 and 48.

