

Biographical Record

John William Charles Blythe (1929 – 2006)

Represented the Suffolk Guild on the Central Council from 1957 to 1965
and attended 5 Council meetings.

John William Charles Blythe was born on 5th July 1929.

While he was at Norwich Grammar School he was taught to ring by Rev. AGG Thurlow, who later became Dean of Gloucester and was a President of the Central Council. John was taught at St. George's Colegate.

His first peal, on 6th October 1948 at Holywell in Huntingdonshire, was while he was serving in the RAF. After he came out of the RAF, he returned to his home in Southwold and became deputy Tower Captain there. It was noted in the 1949 Annual Report of the Suffolk Guild that his return had been good for ringing in the area. He rang a total of 393 peals of which he conducted at least 161. All of these peals were on tower bells. He rang in his 100th Suffolk tower for a peal at Stratford St. Mary on May 5th 1980. His 350th peal was at Tattingsstone on 20th October 1979. When he worked in Ipswich, he joined the band at St. Margaret's Ipswich, where he became Tower Captain; he also rang at Rushmere and St. Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich. He was noted as a good conductor on 5, 6 and 8 bells.

In 1954 John was Peal Secretary for the Suffolk Guild; he was Secretary and Treasurer of the Suffolk Guild from 1955-1964; chairman of the Guild from 1964-1974 and Vice-President in 1980.

In the early 1950s John married Margot Thompson, was also a keen ringer.

John spent all his working life with Barclays Bank, being based at the branches in Southwold, Haylesworth and Ipswich.

He died on 27th July 2006 in Suffolk.

There was a short obituary for him in the Suffolk Guild Report of 2006.