

Andrew Nicholas Stubbs
9 October 1939 – 2 April 2020

Andrew was born in Birmingham on 9 October 1939. He attended King Edward VI School in Edgbaston and graduated from Oxford University in 1961. A move to London saw Andrew join Equity and Law Life Assurance Company where he had a successful career, working at their head offices in London and High Wycombe. When the company opened another decentralised head office in Coventry in the early 1980s Andrew returned to the Midlands.

Andrew learnt to ring at Handsworth during the 1950s, taught by Ian Thompson. He was extremely talented, an accurate striker and became a prolific peal ringer. He rang 2184 peals between 1959 and 2014 and was a great supporter of the peals at Birmingham Cathedral.

Andrew was a dedicated member of the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY), having been elected in 1961. He joined the band at St Paul's Cathedral during the 1960s and remained a full member until 2000, long after he had relocated to Solihull. He competed in the National Twelve Bell Contest 20 times between 1978 and 2001 and was a member of the St Paul's winning bands in both the 1984 and 1996 contests.

Interested in the organisation and management of ringing, Andrew was a long-standing member of the Central Council from 1975 until his death. He was Steward of the Rolls of Honour from 1999 to 2008 and served on The Ringing World committee, later the Board, from 1978 to 2002.

In addition to long-held positions in the ASCY and the Oxford University Society, Andrew was also an officer of the St Martin's Guild, serving as Master for 11 years and subsequently as Life Vice-President. He was Bell Advisor for the Birmingham Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, Trustee of the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund, and Tower Secretary at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

In these roles Andrew was likened to a non-executive director, concerned to ensure things were carefully considered and done properly. Andrew was conservative and stood his ground when he felt this was necessary, but his concern was always to do his best by the ringing organisations he served.

For many years Andrew had been an enthusiastic smoker and drinker. Upon recovery from abdominal surgery in 2004 he found he could no longer drink real ale. Then, following a subsequent operation, Andrew found that a shortage of breath meant that ringing even light bells was impossible. His long peal ringing career, and indeed all ringing, ended in 2014.

Yet Andrew's approach was to concentrate on those activities he could still undertake. He continued his regular attendance at an annual cycle of ringing events, and remained a keen member of the 'Last Wednesday' daytime band centred in the Midlands.

Outside of ringing, Andrew's love of music saw him as a frequent attendee of CBSO concerts. He contributed to the administration of the housing complex where he lived in Solihull, and served as Treasurer for the Birmingham Ileostomy Association, being heavily involved in supporting patients in challenging times.

Andrew enjoyed the events he had organised to mark his 80th birthday in October 2019. And although Andrew had not been in robust health for a number of years, his death less than six months' later, came as an unexpected shock.

Andrew died on 2 April 2020 of the Covid-19 virus. He will be remembered for his loyalty, courtesy, wise counsel, and his extensive contribution to ringing over very many years.

MARK ECCLESTON