



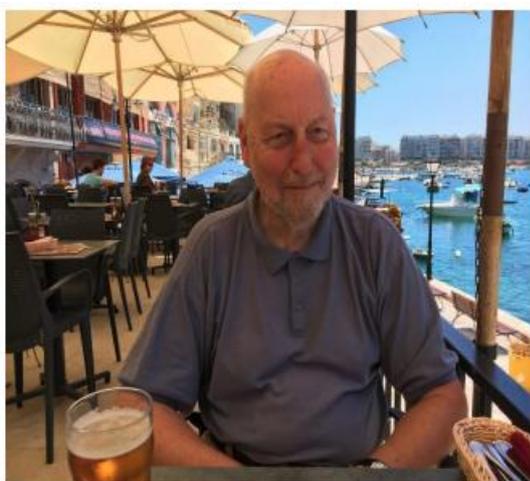
Obituary

David Collins

1947 - 2020

David N Collins, former ringer at John's Lane and Christchurch Taney, departed this life on the 4th October 2020 at home in Buckley, North Wales surrounded by his wife Rachel, daughters Alaine, Bethan, sons Thomas and Nicholas along with extended family.

The Collins family moved to Ireland in the late 1980's originally from Wales via Singapore with David lecturing at UCD. In the early 1990's David and Rachel joined John's Lane, moved to Christchurch Taney in 2002 before retiring back home to Buckley during 2008.



David was born in Holywell in North Wales on the 4th February 1945. He was brought up in Buckley and learnt to ring at the local tower of St Mathew's in 1961. Within a week of starting to ring, his great uncle who also rang at St Matthew's, handed him a beautifully handwritten annotated copy of Stedman Doubles, and told to learn it!! This was the start of his love for the Stedman methods. David was also involved in the training of new ringers and one of those was Rachel who commenced ringing in 1966. They were married in 1970 and both of them rang in their wedding peal

at Buckley.

They moved from Buckley to live in Wrexham and trained a band of ringers at nearby Ruabon. They moved to Singapore for three years in 1983 where David lectured in Engineering Materials at Singapore Polytechnic. In 1986, David took up a lecturing post in UCD in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the family would be based in Ireland until 2008.

It does not happen every day that two very experienced ringers land at your tower asking to join!! David and Rachel became members of John's Lane in 1990. David's mantra was to achieve 'good ringing all round' not only by the ringers but also from the bells!! His skills in engineering were applied often to try and improve the 'go' of the bells at John's Lane. Even the humble ringing of 'call changes' could be vastly improved by the order of the 'calls' and served us well on many an occasion.

David's training of new ringers also included his daughters Alaine and Bethan and over time, we all moved on from the safe 'plain bob doubles' to achieving quarter peal lengths of ringing in Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Caters and the icing on the cake was Plain Bob Royal. The latter was described by David as a conductor's dream with only a few calls involved. In 2002, David and Rachel joined the ringers at Christchurch Taney, and they too were to reap the awards of his training.

David's can-do attitude, calm presence of mind, generosity of spirit brought everybody on board, and it was a joyful time of ringing not only at John's Lane but at the many events that David participated.

Alaine arranged via the good services of George Roberts from St Fin Barre's Cathedral and the Ringing World, to obtain some high-quality ringing recordings for her dad to listen once again to the sound of bells during his illness. The family observed his joy when listening to the bells ringing. We extend our sympathy on behalf of the IACR to Rachel and her family.

Many thanks to Rachel for details of David's earlier ringing years and for providing the photograph.

June Kelly