



Obituary

David Ryan

1947 - 2020

David Ryan was born 19 August 1947. He was the third of seven children to parents Florence & Sam Ryan. Despite hearing the bells ringing every Sunday at St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, they themselves were not bell ringers. In the 1960's however, most of their family including Richard, David, Ken, Lily & Daphne began ringing bells (approached and encouraged by the then cathedral sexton George Wilde) and they proudly listened on as the first generation of Ryans became involved in bell ringing. At that time there was only a small band of ringers consisting of George Strong (Cpt), Dick and Daphne Sewell, Martin Burke, George Sherwood, Jim Skuce and Harry Reid.



After some learning and practice, David showed great potential as he had a natural ability for good striking, timing, and numbers. Following George Strong's move to Dublin, David was elected bell tower captain in 1973. Under his watch the Kilkenny team won 2nd place at the 1996 Cherry Cup competition (a success which has not been matched since in Kilkenny). In 1974 David married Maud Smyth, who he also taught to become a competent bell ringer. He taught many beginners who went on to ring bells at other towers throughout Ireland and beyond (including his son David Jnr and numerous nephews and nieces).

On New Year's Eve 2018 David also organised for the first and only time a Ryan family ring of the eight bells in St.

Canice's Cathedral bell tower, consisting of brothers Richard, David and Ken accompanied by their cousin Violet Hanbidge (née Ryan), David Ryan Jnr, niece and nephews Ann, Victor and Philip.

Despite a serious horse injury and battle with illness he continued to provide training and instruction to younger members right up to the end. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, all bells have remained silent and David passed away on his birthday in August. As a mark of respect members of the St. Canice's Bell ringing team rang hand bells as a guard of honour at his funeral. When the current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted we hope to arrange a "muffled" peal in remembrance of David's 55 years of service to St. Canice's Cathedral bell ringing.

May he rest in peace.

Richard Ryan