



Honorary Life Member Citation

Mike Pomeroy

It was in the latter part of 1979 that I first met Mike Pomeroy.

He had recently moved to Limerick to work in what was then called NIHE Limerick – subsequently renamed University of Limerick.

He introduced himself as a bell ringer who was in Limerick on a 6-month contract. How many years later Mike is still in Limerick? ... although recently retired from UL.

In the intervening years he has helped encourage, develop, educate, train, coach, mentor countless ringers as well as legislate and promote various improvements on the administrative side of the Exercise – which includes the initial set-up of the Bell Restoration Fund in the Southern District, and subsequently the IACR Bell Restoration Fund.



Mike's introduction to bell ringing was under the tutelage of his father Gilbert in SS Peter & Paul Church in Kilmersdon, Somerset. University in Wolverhampton introduced him to wider world of the art, and he thrived ringing many peals, many, many quarter peals and making life-long friends and connections.

On his move to Limerick, he initially stayed away from the Limerick towers, instead travelling to Dublin and Belfast, where there was more advanced ringing than available in Limerick!

At the prospect of staying in Limerick longer than originally planned, Mike eventually wandered up to St. Mary's Cathedral tower, where he has been a member ever since. It was around about this time that there was an increasing cross-over between the Cathedral ringers and those in Mt. St. Alphonsus which led to strong numbers at a practice night, and under Mike's encouragement, change ringing progress was made, with regular quarter peals in either tower.

Roles as Southern District Secretary and Ringing Master led to the IACR Executive Council where he has been elected as Ringing Master a number of times, and also served as IACR President - his term of office coinciding with the centenary of the IACR and the visit to Dublin of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for their Annual General Meeting, in 1998.

Mike Pomeroy Honorary Life Member continued.

Over the years Mike has arranged, led, or participated in many visits to UK either as week-long visits to Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, or Scotland with Limerick ringers; IACR day trips to London; and with the advent of RyanAir, Limerick ringers weekend forays from Shannon to Sussex. That does not include the innumerable tours with the many ringers and groups that he is associated with in England.

Not forgetting the reverse ... the countless visits of individuals and touring bands to Ireland because of his influence, charm and enthusiasm.

But back to the core – Mike has travelled the length and breadth of this island over many years to encourage, enlighten, assist, and steer so many individual ringers and tower bands – either new bands in start-up mode (think Skibbereen, Greyabbey, Rosscarbery, Kilmood, and Dunmanway) or guide bands and potential conductors in the mysterious language of conducting. Everyone here sitting around this table has benefitted immeasurably from ringing with Mike.

There are very few people who through the years, have given so much time to the bell ringing on this lovely island of ours. It is my belief that now is the time to honour all his achievements and so it is my pleasure to nominate Mike Pomeroy as a Life Member of the Irish Association of Change Ringers.

Proposed by Kieron Brislane

Seconded by Ian McCullagh.

IACR AGM, May 2022