

Absent Friends

Loraine Beer - Falkenham and Kirton

30th December 2022

Loraine met her husband-to-be, John, at about 5 years old at primary school and they were married for more than 50 years, living in the same bungalow in Kirton. I asked how she came to have the unusual spelling of her first name and she replied it was because it was entered incorrectly when her birth was registered.

Prior to becoming a bell ringer, Loraine was a member of Kirton church and was on their PCC for many years. She was also on the Falkenham bell committee for the project to get the bells augmented and ringing and was one of the original band members. Loraine then learned to ring at Henley with Rob and Philippa Rixon in June, 1992, after the launch of the restoration and augmentation appeal, and became a member of the Suffolk Guild in 1992. She rang for the dedication of the new bells in December, 1994, and continued to ring for all the services up until the Covid outbreak.

She was very involved in the life of Falkenham church and was a churchwarden for 20 years. Loraine was a great cook, baking beautiful cakes for all occasions, belonged to the Mothers' Union and was also a keen gardener. She enjoyed keep fit classes and would often be seen walking with John around the two villages.

She was very loyal and strong with her calm, quiet nature and will be sadly missed.

Kevin Hohl - Offton, lately SE unattached

Kevin died on May 27th, he was 87.

When Kevin was elected to the Suffolk Guild in the early 80s he was already a very experienced ringer, having rung the first of nearly 150 peals in 1950.

His final peals were rung in 2008, making 223 in all.

Rose Godfrey - Bramford

3 April 1937 - 4 September 2023

During Rose's teenage years her grandfather, Fred Tillett introduced her to bellringing, and she learnt to ring at St Mary-le-Tower. During the late 1940s and early 1950s she spent many weekends and evenings cycling around Suffolk bellringing with her cousin Phyllis Tillett.

After a 25 year break from ringing, she returned to the bell chamber at St Matthews in Ipswich when her daughter Helen learnt to ring in 1980. For the next 40 years Rose could be found in a belfry many times a week in particular Bramford, where she was Tower Captain, St Matthews, Sproughton, Barking, Kersey and Rushmere; she was a life long member of the Suffolk Guild of ringers.

She actively supported all manner of ringing events, from striking competitions, district meetings, training days and the Women's Guild. She was always willing to support learners and helped many novices through call changes and onto method ringing.

Rose turned up for ringing on a Sunday morning without fail.

Hilary Mann [formerly Talbot] - Rushmere St Andrew and Pettistree

1952 - October 26th 2023

Hilary was elected to the Guild in 1984 ringing her first peal on Saturday 19th October 1985 at Rushmere St Andrew. She was a regular visitor at Pettistree from the late 1980s Hilary rang some 10 peals and almost 80 quarter peals, split between Rushmere St Andrew and Pettistree. She remained a Guild member until 2001, lately unattached.