

RUTH REEVES

Ruth died on 10th April, aged 72, after battling cancer. Irrepressible, she had last rung on 20th March on the treble at Lanteglos, and what turned out to be her final quarter was in September 2023. She had been taught to ring in 1967 at St Richard's Church, Aldwick, West Sussex by Philip Stevens, when the vicar asked



Chichester Cathedral Ringers to start training a band from the congregation. By 1968 Ruth had rung her first Quarter and her first Peal, both at Aldwick. Philip encouraged all the Aldwick ringers, including Ruth to attend other local tower practices, especially Chichester Cathedral. Eventually Ruth was ringing for Sunday Service both at Aldwick and at Chichester. She became a member of The Sussex County Association and attended the monthly practices and meetings in the West Division.

Ruth rang four Peals in 1969, firsts of Minor and of Major on the Treble, and then first inside for Minor and Major. In 1970 she rang her first Surprise Minor and her first of Royal, at Portsmouth Cathedral. The following year she rang her first of Surprise Major, and took part in a Peal of Plain Bob Maximus, the first of Maximus by a local Sussex County Association band, at Saffron Walden.

Ruth met Andrew Reeves in the ringing chamber at Chichester Cathedral and they married at Aldwick Church in 1973. The couple lived in Petersfield and not only remained committed members of the Chichester band but also involved with the local Petersfield towers, especially Buriton.

In 1998 and with no immediate family ties they moved to Cornwall where they had already owned a cottage at St Tudy since 1986. They purchased a five acre smallholding in Trewalder, near Camelford. By this time Ruth had rung 171 of her final total of 317 peals.

Together they joined the bell ringers at the local churches of Advent and Lanteglos, and more recently after restoration of the bells, at Otterham. They

continued to ring and help teach others, including four local ringers who started as a result of the Millennium Open day at Lanteglos.

Andrew and Ruth also joined up with other bell ringing groups in Devon and Cornwall for more advanced ringing, including the St Brannock`s Society at Tawstock. They both enjoyed this and have made many good friends throughout the ringing fraternity.

Ruth supported the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers, serving on the Standing Committee for several years and contributing useful and apposite advice. She served for many years as secretary & treasurer of the Northern District which she also supported practically in the tower at Festivals and monthly improvers' practices which she had initially advocated. She was keen to support ringing in the area, and did a lot to encourage local bands for these towers.

Away from ringing Ruth worked tirelessly for The Labrador Rescue Trust, having fostered over 30 Labradors.

After Andrew's sad death in January 2017 Ruth continued with her ringing and surely found strength in the support of her many friends. She and Andrew were well respected and loved as committed, friendly and reliable members of any ringing band and also in the wider community.

With thanks to Chris Renyard, Rob Corney, Julian Trick & Robert Perry for their contributions to this tribute.

Phil Tremain