

Fifty years on – George E Fearn

Revisiting an astonishing ringing career by John Loveless

George Fearn died suddenly on Monday 20th May 1974, aged 67. People were surprised as he seemed fit, still cycling and working on his allotment, and still a very active peal ringer, with an unusually high total and showing no sign of reduction. He had rung 80 peals in 1973. Now, fifty years later but still within living memory, is a good time to celebrate, take a good look at his career once again and in particular to assess the impact it made on ringing in Birmingham and further afield. For this article I surveyed some of the already published facts of his life, but I also made contact with some of those around who knew and rang with him in Birmingham: Alan Ainsworth (1963–1968), John Anderson (learnt to ring in 1955) Jim Belshaw (1966–1973) and Maurice Edwards (1967–1974).

I went to college in Birmingham at age 18 in September 1973. I rang about 20 peals with George, including his last peal, Bristol Surprise Maximus, at Birmingham Cathedral, coincidentally my first in the method, on the Thursday before he died. Although I knew him for only a few months I remember him being a quiet, kind man – reserved but definitely in charge, very well-known and the dominant force in Birmingham. Over many decades he welcomed countless people to Birmingham to work or study. Many developed their 12-bell ringing as a direct result of the weekly Birmingham Cathedral peals, an institution he founded.

He supported several other Birmingham towers as well as St Martin's and St Philip's Cathedral, notably Solihull where the bells were augmented to 12 in 1968. He held most of the major offices in the St Martin's Guild, and was Ringing Master at both St Martin's and St Philip's, totalling 93 years of service, not to mention steeplekeeping commitments.

Peal statistics

The highly detailed analysis now available through Andrew Craddock's PealBase was a great help with writing this article. Ringers can be a statistical lot! George rang his 2,667 peals in about 500 towers and over half his peals were rung in about 20 towers within the city of Birmingham. He rang peals with 1,228 ringers, quite a high number at that time. It is said that he organised peals for many visitors who knew nothing of the arrangement until they received confirmation of date, tower and method!

He was the youngest person to ring 1,000 peals (though William Pye's 1,000 was rung over a shorter period of time: 22 years 2 months as opposed to George's 24 years 9 months). In 1965 he became the second person, after Ernest Morris, to ring 2,000, and his 2,500th was in 1972. He rang peals at an astonishing rate, averaging more than sixty a year over 44 years. At his death, he was the most prolific peal ringer ever, a record he held for another 15 years.

Early life

George was born in Birmingham on 26th July 1906, and his younger brother Henry followed in 1909, in Kings Norton. They had three sisters: Gertrude Alice (1902–1976), Edith Mabel (1904–1961) and Vera Wilding (1907–1982). Henry was a significant figure in Birmingham ringing in his own right for 60 years from the mid-1920s until the 1980s, but there is no evidence yet found that any of the sisters rang.

George was educated at the Edgbaston St George's School from the age of 7. When he left at 14 he was described by the head as 'a boy in



An image of George which still hangs in the St Philip's Cathedral ringing room in Birmingham (courtesy Michael Wilby)

which I can put the fullest confidence and the best student leaving us this year.' On leaving school, he and Henry both worked in the centre of Birmingham until George moved to Hall Green with CEGB, where he was a finance manager, skills later put to good use.

George and Henry were completely different characters, although in some ways complementary. George was quietly spoken, focused with clear objectives. He might have a half pint in the pub after a peal but his life was largely about taking responsibility, which he wore lightly, though sometimes rather pithily. Henry was impish, a great character, very sociable, bright, interested in cricket (spectating), music, literature, rail travel, church music and art. He was fun in the pub, preferring several pints to his brother's odd half, while full of reminiscences, quotes and stories.

Learning to ring

Henry started ringing first in 1925, and George soon followed him, learning in 1927. They both learnt at St John's Deritend, then a ring of eight, down the hill from St Martin's. They were taught by John Neal, an established Birmingham ringer since the early 1900s, a noted heavy bell ringer and a man who was definitely part of the city's Stedman Cinques tradition – he rang nearly 150 peals of it!

John was clearly a good teacher of the basics, as both brothers turned into excellent bellhandlers. George was of average height whereas Henry was a small man who suffered from deafness for much of his life, but was, as John McDonald put it in his 1989 obituary, 'a most accomplished ringer, capable of performing with the degree of accuracy and style which only a small proportion of ringers ever achieve.'

Deritend church closed in 1936 and was finally demolished in 1947. The *RW* of May 16 1958 reported how the Fearn brothers 'witnessed the breaking up of two of these bells at the Loughborough Bell Foundry on April 30th 1958 and saw the metal run to make the new seventh and tenor of the new ring of eight for the Bishop Latimer Memorial Church, Birmingham'. (These bells are now at St John the Baptist, Perry Barr.) The Fearn brothers followed the bells. Muriel Reay recounts 'With no history of ringing at Latimer's, George undertook to teach a band, none of whom had rung before. He cycled the 20 miles round every Friday, teaching bellhandling until the ringers were competent to ring for Sunday services. At the same time he taught ringers at Bickenhill, by the airport. He generated huge annual mileages on his bicycle, which he recorded!'

As Deritend ringing waned they clearly needed to adopt another tower. This was initially Harborne, followed in 1929 by an association with Kings Norton, with its local band capable of ringing London Surprise Major, in which method George would ring 256 peals. They started to go to St Martin's on alternate Sunday evenings when there was no service ringing at Kings Norton and thus commenced lifetime attachments to that tower.

Mixing with the wealthy and influential

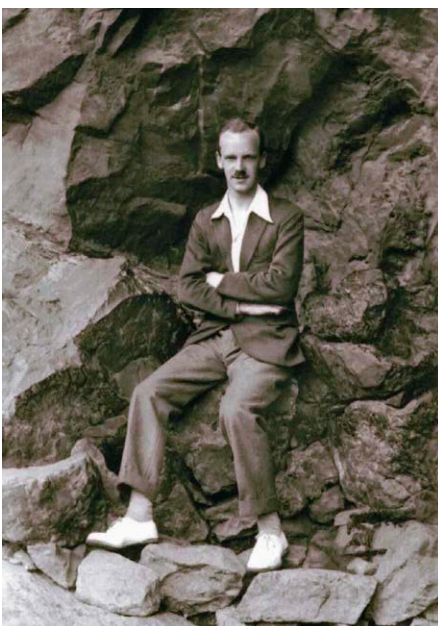
Through Kings Norton ringing George and Henry forged relationships with some influential people, notably the Pritchetts, an established and affluent Birmingham family. At least four of the Pritchetts were ringers. Alderman John S Pritchett was a lawyer, an Oxford man and a distinguished public servant who became Recorder of Lincoln. He was Master of the St Martin's Guild for 40 years and rang 12

bell peals at St Martin's. He and two of his brothers rang in the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major for the Guild at Kings Norton in 1899.

Frank B Yates, another friend, was a member of the St Martin's Guild and as Ringing Master (and churchwarden) at Kings Norton 1924–29 he funded the addition of the two new trebles there to augment to ten in 1926. Frank was a successful businessman, managing the family business of John Yates & Co, edge tool manufacturers, a very well-known Birmingham company. George and he developed a strong relationship, partly why in 1949 he gave the trebles for the augmentation to twelve at St Philip's, the second of which also carried the inscription 'George E Fearn, Ringing Master'.

Another interesting character in Birmingham during the first half of the 20th century was Alfred (A) Paddon-Smith, from Handsworth. He became a member of Birmingham City Council and was Mayor of Birmingham 1950–51, following an impressive career as a director of Joseph Lucas Ltd, with later community and trade association involvement. He was a member of the St Martin's band for over 50 years. He rang over 100 peals of Stedman Cinques on tower bells and handbells, including peals at Exeter, Worcester (on the 11th) and St Paul's Cathedral. He even found time to serve as St Martin's Guild secretary for 20 years and as Central Council representative for over 30 years. Henry Fearn viewed him as difficult and given to being pompous! However, I remember Henry once saying to me 'One of our band here used to be mayor of Birmingham, Paddon-Smith. Good ringer, we must have been good to have a mayor in our band.'

Ringing also drew those who had much less and for whom life was more difficult. An example is 'Bleeding Jack' (John N Lindon) who was around in my time. A truckdriver who used the adjective 'bleeding'



George in 1926



A large group on one of Tom Lock's tours, many of which George attended.

once per sentence as a minimum, the demon drink increasingly became his best friend. However he loved ringing and was a reliable ringer on methods up to Stedman Cinques, which he rang inside, and the treble to Surprise Maximus, which also suited George. In other places Jack might have been kicked out but the ethos of St Martin's accommodated him.

Redevelopment In Birmingham

The backdrop to church closures (and not just churches with bells), demolitions and relocation of existing rings was the development at a massive scale of Central Birmingham after World War Two. An extensive new road-building programme, the replacement of Victorian slums by tower blocks in an effort to overcome the city's housing shortage and the demolition of derelict nineteenth-century factories created a new landscape.

At Bishop Ryder Church, just to the north of the city centre in what was then Gem Street, the old Blews ring was replaced by a new Taylor eight installed in 1923. From the mid-1930s to 1960 about 150 peals were rung here, mostly organised by George. Tales of ringing at 'Ryder's' survive, notably the famous and oft-repeated quote from Rodney Meadows 'I'd like to ring in the deep end tonight!' John Anderson talks of the permanently stayless treble and water running down an electric cable, but George and his band were undeterred.

Edgar Shepherd, a close friend of George's, wrote about the monthly Ryder's peals in a story that demonstrated George's presence of mind. Though the church was situated in a very built-up area there were usually few complaints about the ringing. That changed one night when two quiet young men were waiting for the band as they left the tower. They protested firmly against what they clearly considered an inordinate

amount of ringing, explaining that they were students and that the regular Monday night ringing for nearly three hours seriously affected their studying. George took over:

"He too was very quiet and apologetic. He explained that ringing for the church services could be maintained only if practices were held. It was, he said, a matter for arrangement and he offered the young men a choice of what might be done. Would they rather that a practice of about two hours



Bishop Ryder's Church, a memorial to Henry Ryder, Bishop of Lichfield. It was in the middle of what is now the Aston University campus, and its parish initially came from that of St Martin in the Bullring. An 11cwt eight by William Blews (1868) was replaced in 1923 by a 13cwt eight by Taylor's, which went to Harborne, another suburb of Birmingham, when the church was demolished in 1960. (Heritage Images)

should be arranged for each Monday, or would they prefer the slightly longer practise be held once a month. They opted for the longer practice once a month and the matter ended with expressions of goodwill and thanks.” (*The Ringing World* 1979)

The church was eventually demolished in 1960. The bells went to Harborne and the site is now part of the Aston University estate. George is quoted as looking up and saying to another ringer, in around 1960 as they walked through St Paul’s Square (then an industrial and sparsely populated poor area, pre-gentrification), ‘if Ryder’s went up there we could tan them to death!’

Peals every week

Alongside Bishop Ryder in George’s regular weeknight peal programme arose St Philip’s Cathedral, where a fine 31cwt Gillett and Johnston ten had been installed in 1937. Augmented to 12 in 1949, this would become one of the most pealed towers in history; its total is currently approaching 2,100. George rang 761 peals there: the third highest total after Rod Pipe (850) and Peter Border (827). Ringing was much weakened by the 1939–45 war, and afterwards much rebuilding was necessary. Ryder’s and St Philip’s were available, and with both installations in generally good condition they were pealed regularly from 1947 to 1960. George was soon organising these, with most St Philip’s peals in this period rung on the front eight of the 12 (with no sharp second!).

The regular ringers in these peals were Henry, Norman J Goodman (George’s leading ringer with 820 together), John Pinfold (according to John Anderson it was likely to be ‘curtains’ if Jack went wrong!), Arthur V Pearson, Terry R Hampton, Edgar C Shepherd and Peter Border. Muriel Reay was another: a teacher from Lancashire, later to become the first woman to ring 1,000 peals.

Their output was phenomenal. As the band progressed they rang around 100 new or non-standard methods. About 20 were named after Birmingham suburbs. For example, in 1955 first peals of Olton, Bromford and Nechells were published in a single column of one *RW* issue! Some of the methods were from Andrew J Corrigan’s collection of 100 Surprise methods published in 1947, expanded to 370 a little later. However, although scope to ring new methods was vast as only a few hundred had been rung, getting methods and true compositions must have been challenging at times. It was also the case that until Peter Border arrived there was no recognised conductor. George claimed to be able only to put the bobs in, which encouraged self-reliance in the band.

Ringing back in the late 1940’s was very much a male preserve across the country. PealBase analysis shows women as a very small percentage of the peal ringing population, even though the first all-women peal had been as far back as 1912. Women peal ringers still tended to be daughters or wives of often prominent and influential male peal ringers in a given locality. From his knowledge of the St Martin’s Guild George knew where the promising ringers could be

found, and he encouraged the inclusion of women in peal bands.

It worked! Early participants were Diana J Perrins (Handley) originally from Handsworth, who moved to Kendal, Cumbria in 1961 and rang most of her 900 peals in that area, Evelyn Bowen (Fletcher) and Elizabeth M Wood (Yardley). In the 1960s Susan Page (Funnell/Rothera) and Ann E Fellows, from Kings Norton, were regular participants in 12 bell peals at the Cathedral, ringing peals in Londinium-above methods and excellent ringers. Sue Page moved to Terling, Essex in the late 1960’s where she continued ringing. Ann Fellows, an Occupational Therapist, left Birmingham in 1968, married and later ran a holiday boarding house in a Norfolk seaside resort for many years but stopped ringing.

Focusing on Maximus

George’s key focus was to develop Maximus ringing. The Stedman Cinques tradition at St Martin’s was firmly in place despite the weakening of the band and it was unlikely that would change, although when Albert Walker died in 1961 he nominated George as his successor. The augmentation of the Cathedral bells to 12 in 1949 gave him the opportunity, and he started fixing regular Thursday night peals soon after it. Prior to augmentation, and following an initial flurry on 12 immediately after, the majority of these were on eight. This started to change during the 1950’s and early 1960’s with more on 10 and 12, until eventually the vast majority were on 12.

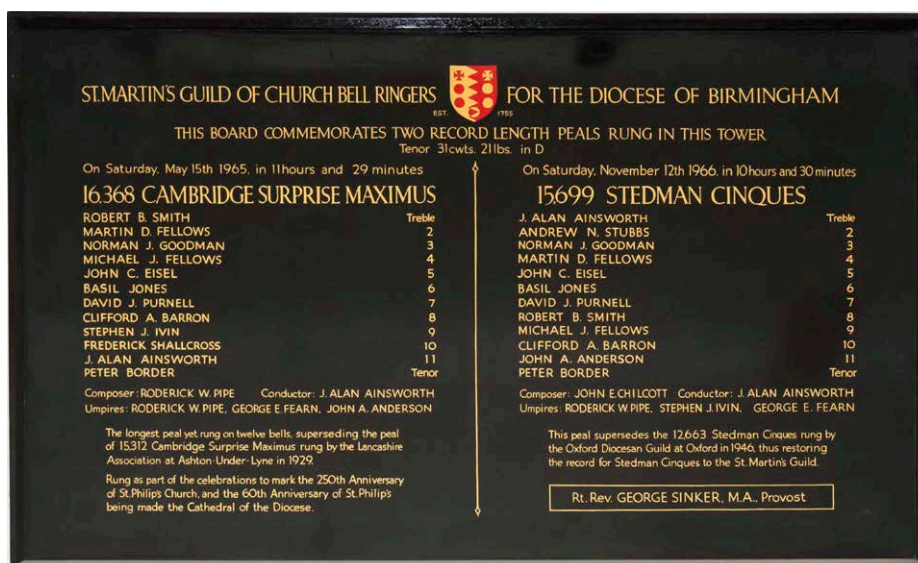
Initially, nearly all the peals they rang on 12 were in right-place Surprise methods: plenty of Cambridge, Yorkshire and Superlative Maximus with occasional showings of Albanian, Prittlewell, Solihull and Pudsey (and Royal variants), all rung before 1951. It isn’t clear when the ‘Birmingham style’ of ringing on 12 became prevalent (in brief, where the handstroke gap is closed with the backstroke lifted a little) but it seems likely that it was adopted

as peals of Maximus at St Philip’s became commonplace and that George was one of the advocates.

Peter Border arrived in Birmingham in 1953 and Rod Pipe in 1959, both very talented conductors. Things started to gather pace and the band strengthened as new ringers came in. A major achievement was ringing Londinium in May 1965 (first pealed at Ashton under Lyne in 1959), with several more peals of it rung in the next two years. Several more Londinium-over methods were introduced and rung between 1966-69. All benefited from a regular band and bells available weekly for peals.

John Anderson remembers these times; he first rang at St Martin’s in 1956 at a time when the band was struggling following the loss of many of the pre-war band. John rang ‘left over right’ but Henry greeted him with a short lecture on the need to convert to ‘right over left’. John duly converted! Albert Walker, the first person to ring 500 peals on 12 bells, was conductor at St Martin’s for well over 50 years and was now 80. The focus on Stedman Cinques had been relentless, with almost 150 peals of it rung between 1919 and Albert’s death in 1961. But the band was now reduced to recruiting almost any who professed to ring on higher numbers. John remembers George’s band-building at the cathedral as a ‘training ground for Birmingham ringers and the foundation for Birmingham’s success more recently. All of this was organised and driven by George.’

Things were not as easy for George as they might have looked, however. Jim Belshaw learnt to ring in Birmingham slightly later, in the early 1960’s. He remembers: ‘I learnt that George had contracted rheumatic fever in his early years and that this condition often resulted in rheumatic heart disease in later life. When George was fit enough to ring during 1996 and 1973, his performances continued to demonstrate his colossal experience and hallmark grace but they were clearly no longer physically easy for



A double board recording two historic long peals at St Philip's: 16,368 Cambridge S Maximus in 1965, and 15,699 Stedman Cinques in 1966. They stood as the record lengths in these methods until 2015 and 1983, respectively.



George and Doris playing chess

him. With the benefit of hindsight this was entirely consistent with a compromised cardiac function.”

This didn't reflect in significant amounts of time out of the peal columns, however, and he still went on the usual peal weeks, to Norfolk in 1970 and to Devon, Lancashire and Bedford-based in 1971. George toured for many years with his very good friend, Tom Lock from Hertfordshire, and he also organised his own tours.

Often understated is the very significant part Henry played. He rang 799 peals, all but a handful with George. He once told me he never really wanted to ring any! It was clear that his peal ringing was mainly to support George. (I used to wonder why Henry always turned up when we met at St Philip's on a Thursday, when he told me he'd stopped ringing peals years ago. I guessed there was a time when he would ring if they were short. But someone tipped me off – Thursday night was when Henry somewhat surreptitiously handed over a brown envelope to his brother which contained cash. George was his landlord and it was his rent!)

The rate of progress by the twelve-bell peal band quickened from 1970 with their first peal of Bristol Maximus in March – followed by six more in ten months. The first two peals of Bristol Maximus had been rung in 1950 and '51 by a local Leicester Cathedral band, with no more until bands in the Reading area rang it in 1968/9. By now I guess things were getting a little competitive – the Cumberlands rang it in December 1968, there were two 'mixed' peals in London in May 1969 and in July 1970 the College Youths rang it at St Mary-le-Bow. As a 14-year-old I was shown the blue line by a participant in one of the peals who said 'that's it, boy, there's nothing else after that'.

But Bristol was just the start. The focus then moved to Glasgow-over methods, with Glasgow Little, Clyde Little and Strathclyde all scored by February 1971. Mottram, Hughenden, Maypole and Cantuar Alliance followed by in 1973. When I arrived in Birmingham that September the method focus was on Huddersfield Little and Huddersfield, with Bristol becoming a standard part of the repertoire. Several of these methods were widely rung for some time. In early 1974 Rod Pipe composed a peal of nine-spliced mainly with methods we had been ringing regularly. The period from 1966 to George's death in 1974 was characterised by a level of innovation only eclipsed when Avon Delight Maximus came along in 1979.

George rang in the Thursday night peals, usually on the 9th or 10th and occasionally on the treble, which he quite enjoyed. Sometimes he was clearly tested by the pace – that applied to others in the band as well. Rod's reedy direct tones would intervene rapidly and loudly when necessary, countered by Peter Border's softer and usually much less clear tones,

Outside the tower

George was at heart a traditionalist, with trilby, grey flannels and cycle clips close to hand for the journey home on the Raleigh push bike. His second home when not ringing was his allotment. He was a keen vegetable gardener and he assisted in managing the business side as secretary of Hall Green Allotment association for many years. In the unlikely event he was actually at home and saw his wife Doris (who he married in 1939) it would usually be at mealtimes!



On one occasion, a sale of the allotments to a local housing company was looming, so he enrolled most of the Cathedral ringers to be members of the allotment society, in order to swell the vote he wanted. If the sale had gone through they would have stood to gain a substantial sum, but he took the road he felt was right, with key individuals or groups identified and his well-honed powers of persuasion brought to bear.

pure Cambridgeshire. But he embraced change and was always a supporter of innovation, advancement and young people progressing.

Travelling

George travelled widely in the UK, mainly on tours. He rang peals at most of the major rings of 12: St Paul's Cathedral, Exeter, York, Redcliffe, Southwark and Worcester. This was a time before major ringing tours to America and Australia, but one exception to this was when he was invited by John Chilcott to go to Washington Cathedral to open the new ring of ten in 1964. John invited representatives of dioceses across the UK. Twenty-year-old Rick Dirksen was the Cathedral staff member responsible for looking after these notable visitors (including some big personalities) and was one of those learning to ring. He remembers an action-packed week with two peals, at the Cathedral and Groton, near Boston. Rick knew George by reputation, as the leading peal ringer, and found him a very nice man, but quiet and shy. He knew that George had never been on an airplane and that he did most of his ringing via bicycle, rather un-American on both counts! Some years later when George Pipe, who also went to Washington, asked him about his memorable ringing experiences, George Fearn remarked that Washington was without question his highlight.

Long peals

Even in the 1960s ringing was a pretty localised business, as the development of Major and Maximus in Birmingham shows, and few long peals on 12 bells had been rung. The most significant were the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton under Lyne in 1929 and 11,446 Stedman Cinques at Oxford Cathedral in 1946. But in these years St Philip's played host to two of the most significant long lengths ever.



English ringers for the Washington Cathedral dedication arrive on Saturday 2nd May 1964 at Washington's Dulles Airport. George is standing on the steps, third from top.

We know the Birmingham Cathedral authorities were happy with the weekly Thursday evening 'long practices' but an obvious question to ask is on what basis George managed to secure permission for up to 12 hours daytime ringing! He had built up an excellent relationship over some 25 years, providing them with what they wanted in terms of service ringing on Sunday mornings and one-off requirements. He was the obvious point of contact. (It is said that the Cathedral authorities were at one time contemplating adding a chiming system; George told them it would not work at Birmingham Cathedral as their bells were upside down.) It helped that he was a Cathedral sidesman, known as part of the congregation. The key contact was the Provost and Assistant Bishop of Birmingham, George Sinker, a colonial man who had been Bishop of Nagpur. He had arrived in Birmingham in 1962 and was very keen and enthusiastic about bells. George dealt with him and Alan Ainsworth, as Guild Ringing Master, organised the ringing.

Another question that might be asked is why choose Birmingham Cathedral for a long peal: a 31cwt 12 and not particularly easy, particularly the middle bells, although crystal clear in the ringing room. I guess it was because that was where the band were ringing regularly. They were essentially a young band – Norman Goodman, in his mid 40s, was the oldest by a few years – and though they had little experience of long peals, they were used to the bells. One long peal attempt was agreed by the Provost and Alan in the Provost's flat at 1am on New Year's Day following the midnight service! It would be part of the celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the church and the 60th anniversary of the church becoming the Cathedral of the Diocese. Easy does it!

Alan was in several of the attempts made during the mid 60s, the first of which was for 16,368 Cambridge Surprise Maximus by a mainly Cheshire band led by Robert B Smith on Easter Monday 1964. This was lost through the tenor slipping wheel after just over seven hours. There was another attempt, for 17,424 Cambridge, on Saturday, 15th May 1965. This was rung, slightly shortened to 16,368, in 11hrs 29min. (See an excellent umpires' report from Rod Pipe, *RW*1965/390.) The band was made up of Birmingham ringers who rang regularly on Thursday nights plus Stephen Ivin, Basil Jones and Bob Smith. Stephen replaced George, who had to withdraw about a week before the peal with a back strain.

The other long peal attempts in the mid-1960's at St Philip's, for the Stedman Cinques record, followed a similar pattern. The first attempt, on 16th April 1966, was for 15,171. The band comprised five from Birmingham and seven from Cheshire, and the attempt was called round after almost five hours, at 7,251, through indisposition. Alan Ainsworth then arranged an attempt on 12th November 1966, using a simple but interesting composition by John Chilcott of 18,075 which focused on conventional

back-bell positions changing about once an hour. Alan shortened the peal to 15,699 through indisposition, and the peal took 10hr 30min. Again George umpired. This stood as the record length of Stedman Cinques until 1983, when the current record of 20,001 was rung at All Saints, Worcester.

Summary

George committed most of his life to bellringing in Birmingham and became one of the most famous ringers in history. Birmingham ringing in particular and also ringing further afield benefited from the foundations he established. He was a kind and decent man and a ringers' ringer, a quiet man but a great enthusiast. He supported the development of ringers – Rod Pipe, John Eisel, Brian Woodruffe, John Mayne, Wilfrid Moreton, Rick Shallcross, Peter Border and Alan Ainsworth, to name just a few – and welcomed visitors. He championed development on eight, ten and twelve bells. As Alan Ainsworth put it, George was an exemplar for the kind of peal ringing that has been a feature of the Exercise for the past few decades. He was a real enthusiast who inspired others to enjoy their peal ringing.

Acknowledgements

Much has been written about George over the years. However a number of people too numerous to mention have helped me write this article. They bring valuable information and anecdotes to the table. George is still within living memory, a key reason for undertaking this little project.

I'd like to thank those who knew George well and were around in the later years for contributing so freely, often helping me to get the chronology correct - Alan Ainsworth, John Anderson, Jim Belshaw, Vernon Green, Maurice Edwards and family. Thanks also to Richard Grimmett, Martyn Reed, Barrie Hendry, and to several others whose anecdotes were valued but perhaps best kept as verbal. Alan Ainsworth moved to Birmingham from Newcastle on Tyne and during 1963–1968 was with George at least four/five times each week – they rang over 300 peals together. Alan was Guild Ringing Master and George Secretary respectively, and they spent many hours talking together during that time, a particularly successful time as peals of Maximus became the norm. Alan chaired the 1975 Henry Johnson Dinner following George's death and wrote *RW* articles about George for the 10th and 25th anniversaries of his death. John Eisel has charted George and Henry's progress in his 'Giants' series.

Photos of George on his own are rare and in group photos his preference was to stand in the back row! Thanks to Michael Wilby for supplying some of the photos, and also to Richard Jones, who offered me use of some of the photos he and Mark Eccleston have collected from meetings with George Fearn's daughter Ruth in connection with their own historical work. To others who assisted me with this project in any way that I may have omitted, thanks all.

Fifty years on

To mark the anniversary of George's death, a number of peals were rung in Birmingham and elsewhere.

BATH & WELLS D.A.

MARSTON BIGOT, Som,
St Leonard
Wed 15 May 2024 2h40 (7)
5056 Pudsey S Major
Comp. A J Cox
1 Nigel R Woodruff
2 Barrie Hendry
3 Michael R Spencer
4 Rebecca J Cox
5 Lester J Yeo
6 Adrian P Beck
7 Anthony J Cox (C)
8 Peter W Hill
Circled tower: 1. Also for the 100th anniversary of the first peal in the method.

NORTH WOOTTON, Som,
Great Orchard Campanile
Thu 16 May 2024 2h18 (2)
5088 Watford S Major
Comp. BYROC
1 Maryl R Chambers
2 Nigel R Woodruff
3 Andrew H Ball
4 Susan M Body
5 Barrie Hendry
6 Sam Sheard
7 Joseph St J Beaumont (C)
8 Lester J Yeo
Completes Norman Smiths 23 spliced in individual methods - 5.

LINCOLN D.G.

SPROXTON, Leics,
St Bartholomew
Wed 29 May 2024 2h47 (8)
5152 Bishop Ryder's D Major
Comp. M Maughan
1 Ian N Robinson
2 James E Benner
3 Alan D H Bird
4 Sylvia M Bird
5 Anthony D Walker
6 Martin F Mitchell
7 Michael Maughan (C)
8 P Barry Jones
400th peal together 7.8.
First peal in the method:
-38-1456-1256-38-14-
34.18.34.56-78 le12 b.

ST MARTIN'S GUILD

BIRMINGHAM, W Mids,
Cathedral Church of St Philip
Mon 20 May 2024 3h20 (31)
5016 Spliced Maximus
(7m: 1008 Bolton; 960 Baratheon;
864 Grejjoy; 816 Tyrell; 528 Stark;
432 Targaryen; 408 Lannister; 143
com; atw)
Comp. D J Pipe
1 Jimmy L Yeoman
2 Alistair J Cherry
3 Henry J W Pipe (C)
4 Stephen M Jones
5 Oliver C Bates
6 Paul McNutt
7 Graham M Bradshaw
8 Daniel J Page
9 Simon J L Linford
10 Paul E Bibilo
11 Colin M Lee
12 Michael P A Wilby

BIRMINGHAM, W Mids,
St Paul
Mon 20 May 2024 3h4 (12)
5040 Cambridge S Royal
Comp. R W Pipe
1 Frederick Shallcross
2 David P Hilling
3 Richard B Grimmett (C)
4 Beryl R Norris
5 Frances Dodds
6 Christopher H Rogers
7 Peter G Brown
8 Robert C Kippin
9 Peter L Furniss
10 John P Loveless
2,500th tower bell peal: 9.
200th peal of Cambridge Surprise - 6.
Some ringers who rang peals with George but were not available on the day are David Brown, Ian G Campbell, Tony Cox, Bob Dennis, Maurice Edwards, John Fielden, Kingsley Mason, Geoff Randall, Martyn Reed, Judith Rogers and Michael Uphill.

EDGBASTON, W Mids,
St Bartholomew
Mon 20 May 2024 2h53 (10)
5056 Cambridge S Major
Comp. C Middleton
1 Barrie Hendry
2 Janet E Menhinick
3 Lucas J Williams
4 Jimmy L Yeoman
5 Christopher J Sharp
6 Keith W Brown
7 Neil Donovan (C)
8 Christopher J Pickford

YORKSHIRE ASSN

KNOTTINGLEY, W Yorks,
St Botolph
Mon 20 May 2024 3h6 (12)
5040 Cambridge S Royal
Comp. R I Allton No1820
1 Roger S Riley
2 Cindy Maude
3 Dinah M Donovan
4 Trevor C Ledger
5 Melanie R Newman
6 Philip R Grover
7 Christopher P Turner
8 James E Blackburn
9 Malcolm S Turner (C)
10 Adrian M Moreton

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