

Prolific Peal Ringers

39: ALAN ROY PINK (1905-1980)



Alan Roy Pink was born on December 5, 1905 in Ripley, Surrey, the only son of Mr and Mrs W E Pink. He learnt to handle a bell at Pulborough, Sussex, although the locals there confided in Len Stilwell that he would never make much of a ringer! However, he rang his first peal here, one of Grandsire Triples on December 8, 1926. His

first peal as conductor was one of Bob Minor at Perranarworthal in 1929 whilst on holiday in Cornwall. Cricket was a distraction from ringing in his younger days and he played regularly for some years.

He began employment as a junior clerk in the Westminster Bank at Pulborough about 1924 but transfers and promotion switched him between various towns in Surrey, Berks and Hants over the next few years as and when his duties to the bank took him there. In the late 1920s he was the Leatherhead district secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and did some excellent work in the early days of that organisation.

His marriage took place on September 10, 1933 in St Martin's church, Dorking, his bride being Elsie A Cleeve, the eldest daughter of one of the local ringers, Mr and Mrs T Cleeve.

In 1932 he was transferred to Eton, in Bucks and joined the band at Windsor Parish Church. Here, his enterprise, added to that of Leonard Stilwell, one of his old friends who had transferred to Berkshire from Pulborough, together with the enthusiasm of many ringers from the area, led to a considerable number of peals in various methods being rung. He was a good organiser and through the 1930s was one of the few conductors who consistently attempted peals in new Surprise methods.

The Ringing World made him their "Leading Conductor - No 59" on February 24, 1939. The article begins: "A conductor of initiative and enthusiasm, Alan R Pink, who has recently gone to live in Oxford, has had a considerable share in the ringing of new Surprise methods." It then details many of the first peals Alan had rung for the Guildford Guild and more recently, the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and indicated he had rung 228 peals and conducted 115 of them.

He served as a Naval officer during the war and on his tours of service managed to ring in South Africa and Australia. He arranged a peal at Sydney for Naval personnel and local residents that revitalised ringing in that area of Australia. After demobilisation in 1946 he became Secretary to the Oxford Board of Finance and, in this capacity, met many incumbents and was able to build up a network of contacts that was very useful in arranging peals. In 1965 he became Secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Trustees, a post he retained until he retired in 1970. At the retirement party The Bishop of Oxford presented him with a silver salver to express the thanks of the Diocese for his valuable work over twenty-four years.

His one thousandth peal was one of Ashtead Surprise Major at Pulborough on April 24, 1971 for the Sussex County Association. Of these peals he had conducted 734, and one had been non-conducted. Unlike most prolific peal ringers, Alan never rang two peals in a day, went on a peal tour, or rang a handbell peal. One unusual peal organised by him was a "colour" peal, when each ringer had a different colour name

In 1973 he had a severe heart attack that never really left him completely fit again. He continued to ring peals until December 1, 1979 when he rang his last at Kingham as, he said; "he was no longer enjoying them." His final peal total was 1174. He died on November 1, 1980, aged 74

644 words

References

100 Years of the Oxford Diocesan Guild
pp113-4

Ringing World 1926/788; 1933/600; 1939/125;
1971/174, 285, 397, 495, 580, 690; 1973/592;
1980/1080, 1111, 1113