

Biographical Record

Peter John EVES (1929 – 2019)

Represented the Essex Association on the Central Council from 1960 to 1966
and attended 6 meetings

Peter Eves was born in the Chelmsford area in the last quarter of 1929, the middle of five children born to Francis, a plaster, and his wife Frances. In 1960 Peter married Pamela Dowsett and they settled in Writtle and had two children, Caroline & Robert.

He joined the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy Company (which later became Marconi Radar) in 1946 and spent his whole career there, much of it in the Quality Department.

He was introduced to ringing while studying at the Mid Essex Technical Institute (now Chelmsford College) where there was a lunchtime handbell group. He subsequently learnt to ring tower bells at Galleywood in 1944, taught by William (Bill) Barrett and Albert (Bert) Batholomew. He developed into an above average ringer, competent to ring and conduct all the standard methods of the day, and he rang a lot with a mainly young band that was active in the Chelmsford area. In the early 1950s he spent a period working with the Navy and rang a lot around Portsmouth and Bath, but for most of his life he was focused on Essex, with 80% of his peals for the Essex Association, and 5% each for the Suffolk Guild and the Cumberland Youths.

Peter became the Essex Association's Treasurer in 1964 at the time when Treasurer, Secretary and Report Editor were split in three. He served until 1977 when he was elected a Life Vice President in recognition of his service to ringing in Essex.

In all he rang 288 peals from Doubles to Maximus, of which he conducted 19. His first was Grandsire Triples at Galleywood in July 1946, and his first as conductor, also Grandsire Triples, was in 1949. In 1950 his 30th peal was 12,740 Plain Bob Royal at Prittlewell, in 8 hours 22 minutes, called by Frank Lufkin. In 1960 his 129th was 22400 Plain Bob Major, also called by Frank Lufkin and at the time the greatest number of changes rung on church bells by one set of ringers. Peter also rang in Frank's band that unsuccessfully attempted to ring the extent of Major at Loughborough. In 1957 Peter rang a non-conducted peal of Original Doubles, which was the first in the method on tower bells. His last peal was at the age of 81 and his last quarter at the age of 85, ringing Yorkshire and Cambridge respectively.

Outside the tower, Peter was a member of Andrew Hudson's renowned 'Sounds in Brass' handbell tune ringing ensemble, which performed in Essex and around the country as well as making several records.

In later years Peter had difficulty standing without support, which limited his ringing. When living alone became too much he moved into first residential and then nursing accommodation. He went into hospital in 2019 after a fall that broke a replacement hip, and he died on 4 February 2019, aged 89, after a ringing career of more than 70 years.

Sources included notes by Joe Roast, Marconi History website & his PealBase record.

