The National 12 Bell Striking Contest’s 40th Anniversary

by George Unsworth with photos by Neil Thomas

The winning College Youths band (clockwise from front right):
1 Tessa K. Beadman, 2 John N. Hughes-D’Aeth,
3 Stephen A. Coaker, 4 Katherine L. Town, 5 James H. Foster,
6 Andrew J. Graham, 7 Alban D. Forster, 8 David E. House,
9 Simon S. Meyer, 10 Robert W. Lee (C), 11 Oliver D. Cross,
12 Paul L. Carless

The National 12 Bell Striking Contest is 40 years old this year. Or is it? Ringers have many opinions it seems, so trying to get a consensus is never easy! The first-ever, invitation-only, contest took place in Bristol on 31st May 1975. It worked so well that it was succeeded the following year by a trip to Leicester, this time with a trophy donated by Taylor & Son. Four of those ringing at this year’s final at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich also rang in the first contest (Fran Dodds, David House, Ann White and Andrew Wilby) and I’m taking bets on them all being there at the contest’s 50th anniversary too!

In my opinion though the contest is 40 years old so it was nice to receive an invitation from the St Peter Mancroft Guild to host the contest in the middle of their celebrations to mark the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal in Norwich. Quite why they wanted the extra stress of organising the contest whilst trying to raise £250k to raise the roof and install a ringing centre is anyone’s guess, but they pulled it off, and in great style.

Twenty-two teams entered the contest this year (our second-highest total) and nine made it through the eliminators at

Results in the Forum
A day to remember

I never can get the hang of sleeping much before a contest but on this occasion I was glad to be up and about early to make the most of this, my final final as contest.
secretary. When I arrived at 8.30 the local team was in full swing with Richard Turk and Simon Rudd calmly directing operations from a fearsome-looking and brightly coloured spreadsheet. The broadcast production team were pre-recording interviews with the judges, and a hand-picked band of non-contestants was collared to provide a test-ring so that the judges could familiarise themselves with the bells. As the church started to fill, and team leaders were exorted to submit their teams lists, 11.00 struck and the contest started in earnest. David Pipe and Richard Turk welcomed everyone to Norwich and invited Caroline Jarrold (a Patron of Appeal 300) to pull team names out of the hat to determine the order of ringing. Oh great. We were drawn last, so any notion I might have had of starting early went straight out of the window! (I see it as my greatest failing never to have worked out how to rig the draw while I had the opportunity.)

The ringing progressed uneventfully enough though the test piece (half a course of Lincolnshire Maximus) resulted in rather more small mistakes than has been the case in the recent past. The acoustics inside the tower were almost as challenging as those outside, but a sound-feed was provided to the Chantry leaders were exhorted to submit their teams lists, 11.00 struck and the contest started in earnest. David Pipe and Richard Turk welcomed everyone to Norwich and invited Caroline Jarrold (a Patron of Appeal 300) to pull team names out of the hat to determine the order of ringing. Oh great. We were drawn last, so any notion I might have had of starting early went straight out of the window! (I see it as my greatest failing never to have worked out how to rig the draw while I had the opportunity.)

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Results

And so, the results. Richard Grimmett sent me a text on the day before the contest asking where the trophy could be stored overnight. I was within a gnat's whisker of telling him that he might just as well leave it at home; it was either that or we adopt the policy suggested by one wag earlier in the contest which was collared to provide a test-ring so that the judges could familiarise themselves with the bells. As the church started to fill, and team leaders were exorted to submit their teams lists, 11.00 struck and the contest started in earnest. David Pipe and Richard Turk welcomed everyone to Norwich and invited Caroline Jarrold (a Patron of Appeal 300) to pull team names out of the hat to determine the order of ringing. Oh great. We were drawn last, so any notion I might have had of starting early went straight out of the window! (I see it as my greatest failing never to have worked out how to rig the draw while I had the opportunity.)

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The Other 12-Bell Final Contestants

Captions read clockwise from front right; team photos by Neil Thomas

(2nd) Birmingham, 1 Victoria J. M. Wilby, 2 Mark R. Eccleston, 3 Stephanie J. Warboys, 4 Susan J. Healy, 5 Frances Dodds, 6 Simon J. L. Linford, 7 Paul E. Biblo, 8 James A. Forster, 9 William R. Haynes, 10 John S. Warboys, 11 Richard B. Grimmett (C), 12 Michael P. A. Wilby

(3rd) Bristol, 1 Ian R. Fielding, 2 Gabrielle L. Cowell, 3 Alison E. Leach, 4 Edward R. Mack, 5 Elizabeth A. Evans, 6 Molly S. Waterson, 7 Anthony M. Bulteel, 8 Matthew D. Dawson, 9 Stephen J. Bateman, 10 Alan G. Reading, 11 Edward O. Marchbank (C), 12 Philip M. Pratt

(4th) Exeter, 1 Ian W. Avery, 2 Paul J. Pascoe, 3 Susan M. Sawyer, 4 Alison C. Waterson, 5 Timothy M. Payne, 6 Jennifer R. Sparling, 7 Pauline Champion, 8 Ian V. J. Smith, 9 Thomas J. Waterson, 10 Michael E. C. Mears, 11 David Hird, 12 Matthew J. Hilling (C)

(5th) Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, 1 Lee Pinnington, 2 Shirley E. McGill, 3 Geraldine R. Forster, 4 Mary E. Holden, 5 Katherine A. Hill, 6 Douglas J. Beaumont, 7 Ian G. Mills, 8 Stephen J. Bailey, 9 Alan Regin (C), 10 Thomas B. Mack, 11 Benjamin D. Constant, 12 Nicholas D. Brown

(6th) Melbourne, 1 Simon C. Melen, 2 Pamela J. Timms, 3 Elizabeth Hutchieson, 4 Timothy J. Peverett, 5 John R. Fisher, 6 Anthony P. Cotton, 7 Terry M. Astill, 8 Simon Humphrey, 9 Christian M. Peckham (C), 10 Alistair J. E. Smith, 11 Stuart C. W. Hutchieson, 12 Paul Jopp

(7th) Cambridge, 1 George Unsworth, 2 David J. Pipe (C), 3 Alison L. Brooke, 4 Cecilia E. C. Pipe, 5 Elizabeth A. Orme, 6 William T. Bosworth, 7 Jonathan A. Agg, 8 Patrick L. H. Brooke, 9 Stephen A. Croxall, 10 Barry R. M. Johnson, 11 Phillip J. Wilding, 12 Phillip M. Orme

(8th) Norwich, 1 Gillian H. Knox, 2 Janet House, 3 Simon J. T. Smith, 4 Faith J. Pearce, 5 James Hughes, 6 Ben Trent, 7 Richard A. Turk, 8 Michael G. Clements, 9 David C. Brown (C), 10 Jon Spreadbury, 11 Richard P. J. Carter, 12 Simon A. Rudd

(9th) Leeds, 1 L. Gillian Moreton, 2 Rachel S. Robinson, 3 Wendy Bloom, 4 Adrian M. Moreton, 5 Lucy Crowder, 6 Hannah R. Martin, 7 Simon Kemp, 8 Stephen J. A. Ollerton (C), 9 Edward G. L. Brightman, 10 Paul D. Bennett, 11 Graham Bloom, 12 Matthew J. Young

(10th) Towcester, 1 Barry E. Saunders, 2 Catherine M. Stanworth, 3 Susan M. Ferrrie, 4 Barbara A. King, 5 Joanne C. Wilby, 6 Andrew J. Dodd, 7 Brett C. Masters, 8 Christopher E. Bulleid, 9 Graham C. Paul, 10 A. John Stanworth, 11 Richard I. Allton (C), 12 Andrew W. R. Wilby
dispelling the gloom

With all the doom and gloom surrounding the Exercise at the moment, it’s good to be able to report that this end of the operation seems to be going from strength to strength. Someone asked me on Saturday what it was that made a good contest tower. The bells? The beer? No. For me it’s the people that put so much effort into making the day a good one. The cake-makers, the stewards, the cleaners-up-afterwards, the PR front men, the publicity printers, the organisers of practice slots, those that weed their graveyards and pull me out of control-freakery from me along the way. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work. My excuse is that, being a professional event manager, that’s how I have to be at work.
Letters to the Editor should be sent to him at The Ringing World Limited, 35A High Street, Andover, SP10 1LJ, or e-mailed to letters@ringingworld.co.uk

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Steadman’s visit to Leicester in 1669

SIR, — When Ernest Morris was researching for his volume, History and Art of Change Ringing (published some 83 years ago) he came across the diary of William Barrow, a well-known Leicester historian, and known as the St Martins MSS. This I give below, as it appears in Morris, pp.320 and 321. “Ye” has appeared in Morris, pp.320 and 321. “Ye” has been rendered as “the” to assist in the understanding of the passage, but all the other old-style spellings have been left intact.

1668, May 11th, Whit Monday.—Mr Fabian Steadman, printer, of Cambridge, sent his letter to the bell ringers of the town (Leicester) setting forth that having discovered the “artes and mysteries” of performing the sweete musick of change- ringinge on church-bells, to the great edifying of yofthe, and the publishing of his “booke” called “Tintinnalogiae, or the Artes, Mysteries, and Fancie of Diffusing Sweet Musick”, explaining to the bell ringers the desirabilitie of establishing a society of scholars for setting forth the “artes and mysteries” of change-ringing not onlie for the edifying of their minds, but also for their enjoyment, and the healthfull exercise of their bodies. And desiring, with Almighty God permitting, to visit their citie at a time appointed, and hoping the pleasure of their good will and companie.

1669, September 30th Thursday.—Mr Fabian Steadman came on a visit to the town for several days, for to introduce his “New Book on the Artes and Mysteries of Tintinnalogia” (campanology), and being the fayer time, and manye strangers coming in, Mr Steadman was entertained by the gentlemen ringers to sweete musick at the churches, expressinge joye with the late newe ringe of heavie bells that bee at St Margaret’s, which discoursed sweete music nightlie. Saturday being the 2nd day (Oct.) young ringers did entertaine Mr Steadman with musicke at St Marie’s. And in the night tymne gentlemen and their Commodores entertained Mr Steadman sumptouslie at Master Baker’s at the “Angell”, £1 16s 8d being spent for meates, wines, beere, tobacco and pipes, &c, as appears by bill. Sunday being the 3rd daye (Oct.) after the morning service at St Martin’s, Mr Steadman entertained them all at his inn neere the High Cross, and afterwards gave forthe his orations on the “artes and Mysteries” in the Great Chamber, or gallerie of his quarters, wherewith the gentle’n and youth, with many others, clergic, and gentle’n, were mightily pleased, all departinge to their homes neere seven of the clocke. Munday the 4th daye, Mr Steadman departed his quarters at ye Red Lyon by ten of the clocke, when the gentlemen and youths comprehended his horse a mile beyond the conduite springe hill, and so gave him their farewell on his journie towards Harborough.—Nath’l Baker, filius, St Martin’s MSS. W B, per W Thirly, clerk.

Barrow added: “It would appear that Mr Steadman was a person of good repute in those times, and the circumstances of his visit to Leicester to diffuse his “artes and mysteries” of campanology or change-ringing, was probably the first origin of the Society of Leicester Scholars, and from the fact that Mr Nath’l Baker, son of mine host of the “Angell” – how else would he have known the details of the bill – wrote an account of Mr Steadman’s visit, he was one of the “gentleman ringers” who “discoursed sweet musick nightlie”. And the Angel, in the Sheepsheede (Cheapside) would be the rendezvous of the gentlemen ringers and youths, and it is only to be expected that the “sumptuous entertainment” got up in honour of Mr Steadman’s coming to the town, would likewise take place at the Angel Inn, the site in atertimes being occupied by Messrs Morley.”

Conduit-street is still there – on the left, just past the Midland Station. A mile further on, up the hill, would be somewhere beyond the Victoria Park, well beyond the town boundary. According to Wikipedia, the Angel Inn was in Tudor times the most important coaching inn in the town. There was a very strong tradition that Mary Queen of Scots spent the night there on her way between one place of imprisonment or another.

And as for the “Sweet music” — in 1669 there were just three active towers in Leicester; rings of six at St Margaret’s and St Martin’s, and a ring of five at St Mary’s. St Margaret’s were fine-sounding heavy bells, about which much has been written, with a tenor of 30cwt or thereabouts; the tenor of the six at St Martin’s weighed 19cwt 1qr 16lb when it was recast in 1740; however, guessing the weight of the tenor of the old five at St Mary’s presents rather a problem. When they were made into six in 1830, according to North, this was done by retaining the existing fourth bell to use as the tenor, and recasting the others to make five lighter bells. As the old fourth at St Mary’s (now the tenor) is in the key of F and weighs 18cwt, it follows that the old tenor must have been in the key of E flat, and would have weighed around 23cwt or so. Hard work to ring Doubles on bells of this weight! Perhaps this explains why the ringers at St Mary’s were described not just as “youths” but “young.”

Look again at the first paragraph. For Steadman and his contemporaries there were just three reasons to promote change-ringing; to edify the mind, for enjoyment, and for the healthy exercise of the body. Could we put that any better today?

HARRY POYNER
Whissendine, Rutland

Stick at it!

SIR, — What a shame that the “demoralised ringers from Buckinghamshire” does not live within the Tonbridge District in Kent. It is very active with teaching and always has been, with specialised training days each year – like many other districts I’m sure. However, a social life is not immediately forthcoming on joining any organisation and The Ringing World not specifically aimed at learners. But the longer you ring, the more it becomes relevant.

Do try again!

Mrs TESSA WORTHINGTON
Sevenoaks, Kent

Short measure

SIR, — Prudence Fay (26th June, p.647) rightly points out that the cost of an issue of the RW is “much less than a round in the pub”. But unless she drinks somewhere very different from the rest of us, her price comparison is wide of the mark. By my reckoning, the weekly cost of a subscription is significantly less than that of just one half-pint of beer!

Prudence also wrote “there is only one solution [for the future of the RW], which is never mentioned: that every ringer should subscribe to it”. For the record, I previously made the latter point (in more subtle terms) in the final paragraph of my letter on p.503 (15th May).

BRIAN HARRIS
Swindon, Wiltshire

Bells on Sunday

SIR, — Having just sent off the August schedule for Bells on Sunday, together with an edited CD to be broadcast in that month, imagine my interest in the letters this week on Firing (p.669). The CD in question, to be broadcast on the 16th (VJ weekend), is of a local band, which managed to record some pretty decent firing, so readers set your recorder to hear how it can be done.

On the wobbling towers front, the brick chimney of Christ Church, Macclesfield, has a tendency to move around a bit. A number of bells can give you an interesting time depending on the change. The seventh can at times be a handful when the tenor is second’s place bell in Bristol Royal, this bell (the tenor) has always had a mind of its own, but in call
changes it can give you a really hard time, especially, if nine, seven and eight in that order are involved for any length of time with the little bells. The treble, third, six and seven will also at times catch the unwary at any time. Great fun!  

MICHAEL ORME

Congleton, Cheshire

Non publication of quarter peal performances

SIR, – I would like to echo Alistair Donaldson’s comments in a letter on the future of The Ringing World published recently (RW 5432, p.575). The quarter peal columns in your journal serve a dual role in both recording – in an easy to digest format – what has been rung around the world, and publishing ringers’ names.

Currently the majority of active ringers can engage with the journal by seeing their names in print following their band’s quarter peal performances. Surely this will cease to be the case if the QP columns are relegated to the category of a few paid notices (at a suggested rate per ringer of 50p + VAT)?

I would be very disappointed to see the journal adopting a selective publication policy towards ringers’ performance achievements and feel that the RW would lose the future support of the general ringer were this to happen. However an increase in donations (at the 50p level) is to be applauded. It is too late for content considerations to take a front-seat.

London W6

ADRIAN UDAL

The Ringing World Limited

‘The 70% Challenge’

SIR, – I am disappointed at the RW decision. You are putting pressure on everyone to make donations with their peals and quarters and as long as 70% comply you are happy; I am not happy. Why should I subsidise the mean, tight-fisted ringers who do not donate.

I cannot understand any objection to paying for the process of nationally recognizing a ringing performance. Many if not most guilds charge for peals to be recorded in their peal books, this is no different.

However I do think the RW should take the same approach as they did about the Central Council supplement.

It is the CC which requires a peal to be published in the RW for it to be recognized and they should pay for the publishing. I cannot see any reason why it should not / could not require a fee from the band to cover the publishing costs and any other administrative cost.

As far as quarters and other lengths are concerned, then I see no reason not to charge for publishing. Please make it fair on everyone and charge 50p per ringer.

Perhaps the CC will pay a lump sum to the RW to collect peal fees on their behalf?

LEDBURY, Herefordshire

FRANK SEABRIGHT

25 Years Ago

The Ringing World, 13 July, 1990
Selected by the Editor

THE RINGING WORLD LIMITED
Chairman’s Report

Very few major changes have occurred in 1989 and the year is perhaps best described as one of consolidation. A satisfactory financial position is recorded with a very close correlation to the year’s budget.

The setting of quarter peals by our team of outworkers continues and has now been extended inasmuch as some pages of peals are being set in this manner. Our thanks go to Frank Price for his work in getting this system under way. A remark made in my verbal report at last year’s AGM led to a mutually successful co-production of the 1990 calendar between the Bath and Wells Association and The Ringing World. At the time of writing this report discussions are taking place with other Guilds regarding a similar venture in 1991.

The numbers of peals and quarter peals submitted for publication continue to rise. This entails considerable effort on the part of our staff to keep the paper up-to-date, and our thanks and appreciation are due to David and Anne for their hard work throughout the year.

In its third year the Ringing World Diary settled down as a regular feature. Sales have levelled off at just under 5,000 copies, and whilst no dramatic changes are envisaged we continue to review the features within the Diary and update and change as required.

Towards the end of the year there were indications that a harsher economic climate was beginning to affect some of our readers and that a potential saving was their subscription to the paper. We are extremely conscious of our need to keep costs to a minimum. We remain convinced that a 25 pence, 24-page, specialist journal with little recourse to profitable advertising copy is still, by the standard ringer’s yardstick of well under the cost of a pint of beer, remarkably good value. Our request to you, the members of the company, is to get this message over to our potential readership and actively encourage support for The Ringing World.

H. W. EGGLESTONE

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50 Years Ago

The Ringing World, 9 July, 1965
Selected by the Editor

GROTON BOYS COMPETE

Among the nine teams competing in the Farnham District Striking Competition on the six bells at Seale on June 26th were two teams from Groton School, Massachusetts. U.S.A, who are participating in a ringing programme devised by Frank Price and John Chilcott. They enjoyed to the full the experience of competition ringing, their “B” team being placed fifth.

When the sixth team was “doing its stuff” two small aeroplanes decided to perform aerobatics and dive bombing almost immediately overhead. The judges, Messrs. W. J. Parker and D. A. R. May, had to abandon their post in the Church Hall, being unable to hear the bells. Their task was completed sitting in the choir stalls. Farnborough were winners with 15 faults and Aldershot “A” and Grayshott runners-up with 28 faults.
School ringing day

During a chance conversation with my head teacher some months back, I let slip that I was a ringer in my free time. This went down well, and I was asked if “the bells could come to school.” Where there’s a will there’s a way; I couldn’t have a full sized ring but there is a perfect alternative …

So it was on Tuesday, 24th March, Tony Crabtree arrived at Seven Fields Primary School bright and early with the Stallpits Mini Ring in his car. Once assembled in the school hall, along with the other ringers (Rob, Nicki, Joe, Si,) we did a very brief whole school assembly, and a quick demonstration, to explain the aspect of the day, and what this ringing lark was about! Some of the children’s faces were pictures; many didn’t anticipate how big the mini ring would be, and none knew that we rang full circle!

Once assembly was done, the children came back to us year group by year group, starting with Year 1 and working up. All the children had a go at backstroke during the day, coming with Year 1 and working up. All the children showed some real talent with many putting handstroke and backstroke together in the 5 minute training session they had! We also had time to show how changing ringing (or “bell music”) works, with a plain course of Grandsire Doubles, getting them to listen to the 5 bells changing with the tenor keeping a steady rhythm at the back (well done Rob!) Before dismantling the Stallpits, we even had energy left to ring a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor, well struck and entertainment for a few staff who stayed back and listened to some of it! (The first few minutes can be found on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9SqU8FcbBQ)

During the day, we had somewhere in the region of 200 children “having a go” on the ring, and a goodly number of staff too. Many were very talented and a lot more showed a real interest in ringing; a very positive outcome.

Overall, a really enjoyable day, and worthwhile. We had nothing but positive comments and the children took a real interest in something “different.” Thanks to my helpers for the huge amount of work and for many difficulties, and this hampered him as well as others. However, he succeeded in scoring one peal of Grandsire Triples, the last peal rung on the bells. The adjudant informing his parents by letter of the death of their son, said the regiment were sorry to lose so good a soldier and so true a comrade.

* * * * *

A “STRAWBERRY” MEETING

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION

AT HARTINGTON

Strawberries and ringing are not often closely associated, but members of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association usually arrange one of their meetings to coincide with the strawberry season, for there seems to be a standing invitation to Hartington for the joint purpose of ringing and feasting on the luscious fruit. Such a gathering took place last Saturday, and ringers from far and near assembled. After two hours’ ringing, the party adjourned for tea, and were cordially welcomed by the Vicar. Tea was served in splendid style, and, needless to say, the strawberries were first favourites.

There was but little business to be transacted. Sunbury was chosen for the next meeting.—A vote of sympathy was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Alford on the sad loss they have sustained by the death of their son, who was killed at the front. This was moved by Mr. W. Shepherd, seconded by Mr. G. Woodiss, and accorded in silence by all standing.

Mr. T. Beadle (Master) ably voiced the thanks of those present to the Vicar and the ladies for their many kindnesses that day, to which the Vicar responded. A stroll through the Vicarage gardens brought the party back to the church again, where more ringing concluded a meeting that will linger long in the thoughts of all who were able to be present.
Submit peals via BellBoard: www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk

COVENTRY D.G.

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP, Som., St Michael Sat Jun 27 2015 3h (7)
5042 Yorkshire S Maximus Comp. R W Pipe 1 Mary R Chambers 2 Jeffrey Knipe 3 Jane D Bull 4 Hilary A Beresford 5 Lesley A Knipe 6 Deborah M Talbot 7 Thomas R Garrett 8 Margaret W Woodrow 9 James G W Twiney 10 Stuart P Talbot 11 Andrew G Talbot 12 Donald B Carter (For St Peter’s Village Fayre and Street Party)

THORVERTON, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury Church R D S Brown 1 Lynne P Hughes 2 Susan D Sparling 3 Peter L Bill 4 Pauline Champion 5 Ian V J Smith 6 Graham P Tucker 7 Roger King 8 Robert D S Brown 9 David Hird 10 Michael E C Mears (C) with best wishes to Margaret Chapman, celebrating her 80th birthday today.

THE RINGING WORLD’s BellBoard You can rely on it
Submit peals via BellBoard: www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**

BACTON, Suffolk. 2 Pretyman Avenue Wed Jun 24 2015 146(12) 5040 Cambridge S Minor (7 exs)
1-2 Cheryl C Spiller 3-4 Jeremy W Spiller (C) 5-6 George J Vant First peal in-hand: 5-6.

HERTFORD C.A.

WATFORD, Herts. 15 Harford Drive Wed Jun 24 2015 1505(10) 5040 Surprise Minor (7m: 1 Rosendal (V York) 3 Pinmore (4) Norkil (5) Cambridge (6) Norwich (7) Cambridge, Ipswich)
1-2 Samuel W Baldwin 3-4 Jeremy W Spiller (C) 5-6 George J Vant

**LEICESTER D.G.**

LONG CLAWSON, Leic., Hallow House Wed Jun 24 2015 146(11) 5040 Surprise Minor (7m: 1 Carlisle, Beverley, Durham, Hexham, Cambridge, Norwich, Nottingham, Norwich)
1-2 Garry W Mason 3-4 John Atcock 5-6 Emma J Southoverington (C)

LONGTHORPE, Peterborough, Cambs, The Vicarage Sun Jun 25 2015 2523 (12) 5010 London S Major
1-2 Robin Heppenstall 3-4 William S Croft 5-6 Trevor H Kirkman (C) 7-8 Christopher J Sharp 9-10 Emma J Southoverington 11-12 Susan A Faul

LONGTHORPE, Peterborough, Cambs, The Vicarage Sun Jun 25 2015 2523 (12) 5010 London S Major
1-2 Robin Heppenstall 3-4 William S Croft 5-6 Trevor H Kirkman (C) 7-8 Christopher J Sharp 9-10 Emma J Southoverington 11-12 Susan A Faul

**LINCOLN D.G.**

LONDONTHORPE, Lincs., Woodcote House Thu Jun 25 2015 2526 (12) 5007 Stedman Cinques Comp. D F Morrison (No.3) 2-3 A Robin Heppenstall 3-4 William S Croft 5-6 Trevor H Kirkman (C) 7-8 Christopher J Sharp 9-10 Emma J Southoverington (C) 1001th peal on the bells.

**LONDON D.G.**

ASTON ROWANT, Oxon, The White House Thu Jun 25 2015 2h31 (14) 5056 Bristol S Major Comp. M B Davies 1-2 Jonathan R Jembere 3-4 Jane Hooker 5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C) 7-8 Robert H Newton

ASTON ROWANT, Oxon, The White House Thu Jun 25 2015 2h31 (14) 5056 Bristol S Major Comp. M B Davies 1-2 Jonathan R Jembere 3-4 Jane Hooker 5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C) 7-8 Robert H Newton

**MIDDLESEX C.A. & LONDON D.G.**

LLANDAFF & MONMOUTH DIACETAN ASSOCIATION

LLANDAFF, Cardiff. 34 Triscombe Drive Sun Jun 21 2015 2h23 (15) 5056 Yorkshire S Major Comp. C Middleton 2-3 Helen Phillips (C) 4-5 David F Moore 6-7 William S Croft 8-9 Robert E Hardy

**SOUTHWAIRK, Surrey, G G’s Hospitium**

WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants, Woodcote House Wed Jun 24 2015 2118 (11) 5056 Spliced S Major (6m: 1444 Lincolnshire; 1280 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 1152 Rutland: 74 com, av)
1-2 John S Croft 3-4 Hazel C Spiller 5-6 Mark R Ecleston 7-8 Alan S Burbidge (C)

**ST MARY’S GUILD**

BIRMINGHAM, W Mids., R.C. Cathedral of St Chad (The Fullerton House) Thu May 21 2015 2171 (11) 5040 Stedman Tripples Comp. Andrew Johnson (10 part containing 10 singles, based on bobs only block)
1-2 Alastair J Cherry 3-4 Charles A S Webb 5-6 Mark R Ecleston 7-8 Alan S Burbidge (C)

**SOCIETY OF STIOWMARKET YOUTHS**

1-2 Cheryl C Spiller 3-4 Jeremy W Spiller (C) 5-6 Peter J Waterfield

ILSTINGLON, Midds. 3 Milner Place Mon Jun 22 2015 2h23 (8) 5120 Spliced S Major (6m: 1080 each Cambridge, Yorkshire; 1280 Rutland; 74 com, av)
Comp. John S Warboys 1-2 James A Smith 3-4 Peter J Blyth 5-6 Mark J Herbert 7-8 David G Maynard (C) First peal in the tower.

ILSTINGLON, Midds. 9G Highbury Crescent Thu Jun 25 2015 2h22 (11) 5056 Spliced S Major (6m: 1444 Lincolnshire; 1280 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 1152 Rutland; 74 com, av)
Comp. J S Warboys 1-2 Mark J Herbert 3-4 Jill M Wigney 5-6 Christopher O D Mahony 7-8 David G Maynard (C) On the 69th anniversary of the birth of Roger Bailey.

**OXFORD D.G.**

TEILHEURSE, Berks, 15 Lytham End Mon Jun 29 2015 2h31 (15) 5088 Xylophone S Maximus Comp. A G Reading 1-2 John S Croft 3-4 Jane D Wells 5-6 Jack Page 7-8 Elizabeth C Frye 9-10 Graham A C John (C) 11-12 E John Wells

ASTON ROWANT, Oxon, The White House Thu Jun 25 2015 2h31 (14) 5056 Bristol S Major Comp. M B Davies 1-2 Jonathan R Jembere 3-4 Jane Hooker 5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C) 7-8 Robert H Newton

READING, Berks, 15 Lytham End Tilehurst Mon Jun 29 2015 2h20 (15) 5088 Leatherhead S Maximus Comp. G Mariner 1-2 Jack Page 3-4 June D Wells 5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C) 7-8 E John Wells
To welcome Eliza Lily, granddaughter to Valerie and Bernard Groves.

**ST MARY’S GUILD**

BATH & WELLS D.A.

MARSTON BIGOT, Som, St Leonard Wed Jan 14 2015 2h43 (7) 5051 Spliced S Major Comp. Donald P Morrison (No.4746) 1 Terry Nichols 2 David G Massey 3 Andrew H Ball 4 Jane Hooker 5 Claire O’Mahony 6 Robert Perry 7 Julian N Farrar 8 Matthew R T Higby (C) With the greatest respect for the life and work of George Wareham, former tower captain here and stay of the local ringing scene.

CASTLE CARY, Som, Al Saints Sat Jan 17 2015 3h (15) 5152 Spliced S Major (6m: 896 each Bristol, Superlative; 672 each Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Padbury; 448 each London, Rutland, Yorkshire; 132 com, av)
Comp. D F Morrison (No.3879) 1 Anna M P Piechna 2 Claire O’Mahony 3 Tobias B Dando (C) 4 David G Massey 5 Christopher R Field 6 Robert E Beck 7 Barrie Hendry 8 Andy Mead Remembering George Wareham.

Also congratulations to Daniel Scott of Bournemouth who rang a quarter peal of Cambridge Major (without putting a foot wrong) at Ringwood the previous evening: his first of both Surprise and Major. A sterling effort to be made in both performances, and as ever it was a privilege to travel down to the glorious south coast to ring in these and achieve yet more firsts in the C&S District!


The Ringers’ Arms – 18

Peals rung in memory of George Wareham

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Eachel: So, how are you two getting on with the plans for The National Ringing Museum? Bill: I have located a fair amount of material. I have got some 25,000 books from individual ringers on their way. Many of those are the results of legacies. Then there are the individuals’ ringing records and other items. From closed churches we have 8,923 bells, 723 frames with attendant fittings and over 5,000 old ropes. From the ringing rooms we have over 10,000 books along with ringing records, peal boards, ringing mats and carpets. Of course this is just from the Phase One closures. We have Phases Two and Three to go yet.

Eachel: Harry, how are you doing with accommodation? Harry: I have made a decent start. I have located a 6′ x 4′ shed.

Ethel: I think we need a planning meeting.

AJB
Being a keen peal ringer, my wife Jane decided that she would like to mark her half-century by spending a long weekend ringing peals. An ambitious program was formulated, though inevitably as the date approached, some changes were forced by illness and injury. All five peal attempts were successful, including one of Jane’s particular favourites, Smith’s 23-Spliced. We are particularly glad that many of our West Country friends were able to join us, many staying for a curry at the Di Raj in Dursley on the Saturday night. The great day itself was marked with a peal on the grand old Rudhall back ten at Painswick; the conductor wishes to be noted that he had nothing to do with the choice of method!

Jane Bull’s 50th birthday pealfest

East Meets West

SAXLINGHAM

NETHERGATE, Norfolk, St Mary the Virgin
Tue May 5 2015 2h40 (8)

5120 Superlative S Major
Comp. B D Price
1 John P Loveless
2 Pauline Champion
3 Andrew B Beaumont
4 Ian G Campbell
5 Anthony J Cox
6 John P Loveless
7 Peter J Sanderson
8 Ian P Hill

The first peal on the augmented bells.

HETHERSETT, Norfolk, St Peter
Fri May 8 2015 2h43 (17)

5024 Sliced S Royal
Comp. J J Winney (No. 43)
1 Thomas J Waterson
2 Simon A Rudd
3 John P Loveless
4 Anthony J Cox
5 Ian Roulston (C)
6 Pauline Champion
7 Peter J Sanderson
8 Claire F Roulston

To mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

WYMONDHAM, Norfolk, Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin & St Thomas a Becket
Fri May 8 2015 3h 26 (27)

5022 Bristol S Royal
Comp. J F Walker
1 Ian Roulston
2 Rebecca J Cox
3 Andrew B Beaumont
4 Pauline Champion
5 Thomas J Waterson
6 John P Loveless
7 Claire F Roulston
8 Ian P Hill

To mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

WILLSBOROUGH, South Yorkshire, All Saints
Sat May 9 2015 3h18 (21)

5080 Magna Carta D Major
Comp. D W Beard
1 Peter J Sanderson
2 John M Thurman
3 Andrew B Beaumont
4 Ian G Campbell
5 Anthony J Cox
6 Claire F Roulston
7 Ian P Hill
8 Thomas J Waterson
9 Ian P Hill
10 George H Campbell (C)

To mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

WINCHCOMB, Gloucestershire, St Mary
Sat May 9 2015 3h18 (21)

5080 Magna Carta D Major
Comp. J J Winney (No. 43)
1 Thomas J Waterson
2 Simon A Rudd
3 John P Loveless
4 Anthony J Cox
5 Ian Roulston (C)
6 Pauline Champion
7 Peter J Sanderson
8 Claire F Roulston
9 Ian P Hill
10 George H Campbell (C)

To mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

SHTON, Peterborough
Fri May 29 2015 2h44 (17)

5048 Oxford Surprise No. 2
Comp. J J Winney (No. 43)
1 Thomas J Waterson
2 Simon A Rudd
3 John P Loveless
4 Anthony J Cox
5 Ian Roulston (C)
6 Pauline Champion
7 Peter J Sanderson
8 Claire F Roulston
9 Ian P Hill
10 George H Campbell (C)

To mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

If you can even link and group related performances
www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/diary.php
First quarter congratulations

Alderney, Channel Is. 24 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Aileen Wilson 1, Philippa Ardtit 2, Helen M McGregor 3, John Mackey 4, Peter J Revis (C) 5, Danielia Hill 1st (1Q). £3

Carrickfergus, Antrim. 22 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Alex T Nielson (1st Q) 1, Maud Lindsay 2, Jean Jeffery 3, Ladd L (C) 4, Gaurang Patel 5, William Chapman 6. £3

Cople, Beds. 21 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Lucy M Croucher (1st Q) 1, John P Lovelock 2, Susan M Silver 3, Linda M Garton 4, Dean De-Marthes 5, Christine A Williams 6. For Father’s Day. £3

Harlow Weald, London. 27 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Doubles: D Tigg (1st Q) 1, C O Mahoney 2, G Baker 3, G McLean 4, J J Mercer (C) 5, K J Samson (1st Q) 6. Rung to mark the 12th anniversary of James Mercer’s ordination as priest. £3

Pimlico, London SW1. (Saviour) 27 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Doubles: James Belshaw 1, Ruth Simon 2, Sam Cave (C) 3, Stephanie Pettenden 4, Nicholas Simon 5, Stephanie Methar (1st Q) 6. £3

Ruardean, Glos. 21 Jun, 22 Call Changes: Chris Ancott 1, Shirley Parsloe 2, Paul Avent (1st Q) 3, Lucas Reade (1st Q) 4, Will Rockall 5, Norman Morris 6. Rung to congratulate the Revd Philip Avery on being ordained Priest at Gloucester Cathedral, Sat 20 Jun 2015. £3

South Cerney, Glos. Glos. 24 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Michelle Waymont-Painter (1st Q) 1, Rob Clare 2, Judy Carter 3, Peter Harris 4, Peter Holden (C) 5, Philip Tweddle 6. £3

Swaffling, Suffolk. 26 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: John Tesh 1, Richard Stevens 2, Suzanne Stevens 3, Ian Wright 4, Jonathan Stevens (C) 5, John Massey (1st Q). £3

In Memoriam

Brede, E Sussex. 18 Jun, 1320 St Martin’s B Doubles: Louise G Pink 1, Alan D Pink (C) 2, Julie D David 3, Penny G Payne 4, Daniel J Morgan 5, Simon P Morgan 6. Half-muffled in memory of Mary McDonnell. £3

Bromyard, Herefs. 14 Jun, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Nick Cronin 1, Karen Parker 2, Jo Hall 3, Jason Fisher 4, Linda Taylor 5, Martin Craig 6. (All Saints) 21 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Peter Parker 1, John David 2, Michael Bubb (C) 3, Sue Le Feuvre 4. Rung half-muffled immediately after the service for Jenny Peet, a ringer at this church, who died one year ago today. £5

Somerleyton, Suffolk. 17 Jun, 1260 Kent TB & PB Minor: Jenny Brunker 1, Vanessa Crawford 2, Liz Sutherland 3, Norman Cossey 4, David McLean 5, Tony Crawford (C) 6. In memoriam following the service of thanksgiving for John Robbens, former organist, aged 92. £3

Vale, Guernsey, Channel Is. 26 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Doubles: Robbie Sherwood 1, Nicky David 2, Sue Park 3, John David 4, John David 5, Michael Bubb (C) 6, Sue Le Feuvre 7, Alistair J Cherry (C) 8. For Evensong & Rise in Glory. £3

Washington, DC, USA. 13 Jun, 1299 Stedman Caters: Susan M O’Neill 1, Ann G Martin 2, Mary Clark 3, Katharine S Emmons 4, Meredith A Morris 5, Robert G Gibson 6, Frederick DuPuy 7, Cecily Cartwright 8. For the 80th birthday of her daughter. £3

Willesden, London. 19 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Doubles: Susie Daniels 1, Stephen Mitchell 2, Margaret Pratt 3, Mary Gow 4, James White (C) 5, David Willetts 6. The band would like to name the method ringing in memory of Roger Bailey on the 69th anniversary of his birth. £3

Methods named

The following methods are believed to have been rung for the first time.

Birchington, Kent. (All Saints) 21 Jun, 1260 John & Ann Gunn Doubles: Michael Little (C) 1, Tim Attridge 2, David Skeehy 3, Emma Tapsell 4, Douglas Neve 5, Stuart Willmot 6. Rung for John & Ann Gunn, long-time loyal members of the church who are leaving for a new and important stage in their lives. £3

Shirland, Derbys. 26 Jun, 1440 Fauster Catsr Brder Minor: Jana Pavoova 1, Anne E Westman 2, Mike R. Hexton 3, Neil I. Humphry 4, John Payne 5, Helen Porter 6, Colin Friend 7, James White (C) 8. £2

General quarto

Acton, Middx. 7 Jun, 1260 Spl Major (3m): Martin Chick 1, Louise Booth 2, Vernon Bedford 3, Roderic Bicknell 4, John Payne 5, Helen Porter 6, Colin Friend 7, James White (C) 8.
Birchington, Kent. (All Saints) 6 Jun, 1260 Doubles (S Mary V) 1, Thomas Godfrey 2, Robert Attitude 3, David Skeevy 4, Michael Little (C) 5, Stuart Wilmut 6. 1st at this tower: 6. 1st in p: 2.

Birchington, Kent. (All Saints) 7 Jun, 1260 Gonery Doubles: Keith E Beaven (C) 1, Brian Pinnock 2, Stuart Attitude 3, Douglas Neve 4, Michael Little (C) 5, Stuart Wilmut 6. 6th run to celebrate Stanley Evans 60th year as a priest & as a get-well wish to Tom Barlow. Also a Birthday compliment to 2.

Birmingham, Alabama. (Cathedral) 6 Jun, 1260 Doubles (Sm): Ted Clark (C) 1, Joe Roberts 2, Susan Langdon 3, Sykes, Robert Bower 4. 1st at this tower: 6. To commemorate the 71st anniversary of D-Day.

Bishop’s Hull, Som. 10 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Keith E Beave (C) 1, Margaret A Taylor 2, Rosemary K Taylor 3, Robert Attitude 4, Douglas Neve 5, Stuart Wilmut 6. Run to celebrate Stanley Evans 60th year as a priest & as a get-well wish to Tom Barlow. Also a Birthday compliment to 2.

Cheltenham, Warden Hill, Glos. 7, Jun, 1260 Doubles (2m3y): Gillian Lloyd-Williams 1, Mike Collett 2, Isabel Dooly 3, Sian Williams 4, John Haines 5, Bethan John 6. Rung to celebrate Mrs Margaret Haines’ 60th birthday.


Chipping Campden, Glos. 3 Jun, 1260 Cambridge S Minor: Marina Warner 1, Vanessa E Webster 2, Simon Durrant 3, Geoffrey Reed 4, June Mackay 5, Max Drinkerwater (C) 6, 350th Q. 5th run to celebrate Stanley Evans 60th year as a priest & as a get-well wish to Tom Barlow. Also a Birthday compliment to 2.

Clepfort, Som. 3 Jun, 1260 Cambridge S Minor: Marina Warner 1, Vanessa E Webster 2, Simon Durrant 3, Geoffrey Reed 4, June Mackay 5, Max Drinkerwater (C) 6, 350th Q. 5th run to celebrate Stanley Evans 60th year as a priest & as a get-well wish to Tom Barlow. Also a Birthday compliment to 2.

Cobham, Kent. 6 Jun, 1260 Beverley Minor: Sally Mew 1, Elaine Wilkinson 2, James Hayden 3, Roger Beanman 4, Nick Eks 5, Iain Hayden (C) 6. District QP Day.

Cromie D’Abitot, Worcs. 7 Jun, 1260 Cambridge S Minor: Selina Hiles Richardson 1, Tim Bayton 2, Carol Waller 3, John Smith 3, Craig P Homewood 4, Alexandria Hajak 5, Robin J Walker (150th as C) 6. To entertain the visitors to the Battle of Blore Heath Park. 4th run to celebrate Stanley Evans 60th year as a priest & as a get-well wish to Tom Barlow. Also a Birthday compliment to 2.

Cullompton, Devon. 6 Jun, 1260 Stedman Caters: Sue Sawyer 1, Charlotte Boyce 2, Lesley Tucker 3, Lynne Hughes 4, Tim Bayton (C) 5, Brian L Burrows (C) 6, Nigel Woodruff 7, Tom Garrett 8. To commemorate the 71st anniversary of D-Day.

Curbridge, Som. 10 Jun, 1260 PB Minimus: Ivan Andrews 1, Pat David 2, Robert Welles 3, Valerie Storey 4, Nigel Orchard 5, Malcolm Penney (C) 6. Birthday compliment to 3.

Derby, (S Peter) 12 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Triangles: Mike Davison 1, Neil Skelton 2, Maryan Jenner 3, Judith Williams 4, David Rake 5, Tom Garrett 6, Malcolm Penney (C) 7, Robert Welles 8. A Second Wednesday Group Q.

Donhead St Mary, Wilts. 10 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Mike Collett 1, Piercy Birt 2, Felicity Webster 3, Iain Hayden (C) 4, Richard Picker 5, Peter Wインド (C) 6. Rung as a Birthday compliment to Nicola Davison

Eaton Bray, Beds. 7 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Peter Hayward 1, Peter Hayward 2, Caroline Ballard 3, Paul D Wilkinson 4, Patricia A Redfern 5, Johanna Westwood 6, Jana Pavova 7, John R Maughan (C) 8. 600th Q: 1. 1/4.

Eastbourne, E Sussex. 10 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Triangles: Mike Hayward 1, Mike Hayward 2, Harry Murley 3, Teresa J Dunstone 4, Jill Parr 5, William Woodruff 6, Tim Bayton (C) 7. 1st in p: 2.


Earlston, Scottish Borders. 7 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Peter Hayward 1, Peter Hayward 2, Caroline Ballard 3, Paul D Wilkinson 4, Patricia A Redfern 5, Johanna Westwood 6, Jana Pavova 7, John R Maughan (C) 8. 600th Q: 1. 1/4.

Eastover, Som. 10 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Triangles: Mike Davison 1, Neil Skelton 2, Maryan Jenner 3, Judith Williams 4, David Rake 5, Tom Garrett 6, Malcolm Penney (C) 7, Robert Welles 8. A Second Wednesday Group Q.

Eastover, E Sussex. 9 Jun, 1260 Grandaire Triangles: Mike Davison 1, Neil Skelton 2, Maryan Jenner 3, Judith Williams 4, David Rake 5, Tom Garrett 6, Malcolm Penney (C) 7, Robert Welles 8. A Second Wednesday Group Q.

Ezell, Devon. (Cathedral) 7 Jun, 1260 PB Minimus: Ian Andrews 1, Pat David 2, Robert Welles 3, Valerie Storey 4, Nigel Orchard 5, Malcolm Penney (C) 6. Birthday compliment to 3.


Corpus Christi service. 2, Colin Cherrett 3, Debbie Malin 4, Stephen Jakeman 5. 1260 PB Doubles: Stephen Haigh 1, Carrie Rutherford 2, Ruth Cates: Malcolm Evans (C) 1, Di Sheppard 2, Clive Boocock (C) 3, David Prest 4. District QP Day. 1st on eight: 1 & 4. 1st in m: 5.

7 Jun, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Lynda G Evans 1, Mark D Symonds 2, Teresa J Dunstone 3, John R Schmidt 4, Gareth R Evans 5, Harry Morley 6, 1/2.

Leckhampston, Glos. 6, 12 Jun, 1258 Cambridge S Minor: Brian Beresford 1, Fiona Fox 2, Harry Tomlinson 3, Barbara Pettitt 4, Pat Hickey 5, Chris Seager 6, Mike Seagrave 7, Stuart Tomlinson 8. 1st in m: 6.

12 Jun, 1258 Grandside Doubles: Lynda G Evans 1, Martyn Foolish 2, Brian Wallis 3, Chris Seager 4, Stuart Tomlinson 5, David R Higgins 6. For the 70th anniversary of Lynda G Evans.


Hños, 6, the 9th Birthday compliment to HRH Prince Philip. 550th together: 1 & 4.

31 May, 1280 PB Minor: Philip 1, Celia 2, Anne 3, David 4, Max 5, Nathaniel 6. The band’s compliment to 1 for his 1st blows in m: 5.

9 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Michael Hatchett 1, Mark Shepherd 2, Hugh Collins 3, Edward R Venn 4, Tom Mitchell 5, Mike Semken 6, Richard Barker 7, Nicholas C Sturgess 8. For evening service. 1st in m: 6; & for a long service: 1.


Horsledon, Chelmsford. 11 Jun, 1262 PB Major: Christopher C M Stephenson 1, Ros C Skipper 2, Rebecca A Woolward 3. For evening service.

For the band’s compliment to Gareth Screeton, Cathedral Verger.

Fillongley, Suffolk. 2 May, 1280 Cambridge S Minor: Brian Beresford 1, Fiona Fox 2, Harry Tomlinson 3, Barbara Pettitt 4, Pat Hickey 5, Chris Seager 6, Mike Seagrave 7, Stuart Tomlinson 8. 1st in m: 6.

For Choral Evensong. 28 Jun following a walking accident to positions in ANZAB.

5 Jun, 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Simon D Woof 1, Nicholas E Davis 2, George J George 3-6. District QP Day. 1st in m: 2 & 5.


Lindow, Cheshire. 31 May, 1280 Cambridge S Minor: Simon D Woof 1, Nicholas E Davis 2, George J George 3-6. For evening service.

Lichfield, Staffordshire. 29 May, 1280 Grandsire Doubles: Michael Hatchett 1, Mark Shepherd 2, Hugh Collins 3, Edward R Venn 4, Tom Mitchell 5, Mike Semken 6, Richard Barker 7, Nicholas C Sturgess 8. For the patronal festival.

Liberty, New York. 7 Jun, 1264 PB Minor: Philip 1, Celia 2, Anne 3, David 4, Max 5, Nathaniel 6. The band’s compliment to 1 for his 1st blows in m: 5.

Lincoln, 11 Jun, 1262 PB Minor: Simon W Edwards 1, Jonathan D Storey 2, 5, Claire L Hyde (C) 3, Simon Taylor 4, Graeme Sheppard 5, Cathy Baker 6, Margaret Smith 7, David Caters: Malcolm Evans (C) 8. 1st on eight: 1 & 4. 1st in m: 6. The band’s compliment to Gareth Screeton, Cathedral Verger.
Newport Pagnell, Bucks. 6 Jun, 1260 Grand Masters: D C Tracy, D. C. Dyer (Abbey), Colin A Higgs 3, Roger Baldwin 4, Robert Tregillus 5, Alan M McArthur 6. 2.50


Oxford, (Thomas M 9 Jun, 1277 Stedman Caters: Janet L Morris 5-6. 1st in m: 2-3. £2.50

Pershore, (The Bell Tower, Swan Bells) 11 Jun, 1260 PB Doubles: Kay Newton 1, Stephen Mawsey 2, Martyn Marriott 7, Peter Hawcock 8, Alistair Smith 9, 3, Matthew Jones 4, Emma Jones 5, Phil Wild 6, Stuart Cummings. 1st in m: 2-3. £2.50

Portsmouth, (5m): Gareth R Evans 1, Mark D Symonds 2, Teresa J Humphrey 3, A Roy Shallish (C) 5, Mark R E Hill (C) 8. £2.50

Reading, (Abbey) 7 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Patricia D Spink 1-2, Ian M Redway (C) 3-4, S. M. Read 5-6. 1/4. £2.50

Ringsend, Hants. 7 Jun, 2016 PB Minor: Terence J Humphrey 1, Brian St John 2, Simon Alford 3, Ian Wiltshire 4, Ian Hastilow 5, 6. 1st in m: 2-3. £2.50

Rochester, (Abbey) 29 May, 1280 Double Norwich S: Matthew Salthouse 1, John Ferdinand 2, Anna Joyce 3, Paul Reeves 4, Simon Tremewan (C) 5, Stanley Redmond 6, First as C. Rung for Bath & West Diocesan Association QP month. £3

Sevenoaks, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: John G Schmidt 1, John P Read 2, Alex S Riley 3, Sue Webb 4, Kevin J Musty 5, Hugh Baxter 6. Rung during Zoë's morning service. £5

Shrewsbury, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Pam Brock 1, Lisa Cooper 2, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Sunny Ringing Day. 1st on a mini ring: 5 & 6. 1st blows in m: 4 & 6. £2.50


Southampton, Hants. (S Michael Archangel) 6 Jun, 1280 Superlative S Major: Kieran Downer 1, Andy Pyman 2, Christine R Hill 3, 2nd Blow: 4, David A Cornwall 5, Andrew Elliston 5, Lavinia M Sullivan 6, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Evensong & to celebrate the Golden Wedding on 5 Jun of 50 years. £5

Tickford Abbey, (Abbey) 29 May, 1280 Grandsire Caters: Richard Offen 1, Valerie沸, 2, Brian M Wiltshire 3, Ian G Smith 4, Morley 5, William Avenell 6, Jeremy Alford (C) 7, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Evensong & to celebrate the Golden Wedding on 5 Jun of 50 years. £5

Tickford Abbey, (Abbey) 29 May, 1280 Grandsire Caters: Richard Offen 1, Valerie沸, 2, Brian M Wiltshire 3, Ian G Smith 4, Morley 5, William Avenell 6, Jeremy Alford (C) 7, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Evensong & to celebrate the Golden Wedding on 5 Jun of 50 years. £5


Warham, W Sussex. (15 Bell Road) 11 Jun, 1312 Oxford TB Major: Karen White 1-2, Simon Alford 3-4, Margaret L Sherwood 5-6, Geoffrey Francis 7-8. £2

Watford, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1259 Grand Masters: M. Sawyer 1, Martin J Blazey 2, Neil A Williams 3, Giles Minor: Charlotte A Boyce 1, Graham Tucker 2, Susan Evans 5, Maurice Rose (C) 6. A 100th Birthday to Emily & Robert Zealley. £2


Wimbledon, (1p/5m): Flavia Faedo 1, Liz Shearman 2, Josephine except 3 & 5. £2

Wingfield, (Abbey) 1 Jun, 1258 Grandsire Caters: Janet L Morris 5-6. 1st in m: 2-3. £2.50

Windsor, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Pam Brock 1, Lisa Cooper 2, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Sunny Ringing Day. 1st on a mini ring: 5 & 6. 1st blows in m: 4 & 6. £2.50

Woodbridge, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Patrica D Spink 1-2, Ian M Redway (C) 3-4, S. M. Read 5-6. 1/4. £2.50

York, (Abbey) 6 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Pam Brock 1, Lisa Cooper 2, Stephen R Smith 11 (C) 7, Keith Vernon 8. For Sunny Ringing Day. 1st on a mini ring: 5 & 6. 1st blows in m: 4 & 6. £2.50
Uxbridge celebration

On Saturday, 1st May, St Andrew’s Church in Uxbridge celebrated its 150th anniversary.

On Sunday, 3rd May, thirteen past and present clergy came to a celebratory service presided over by Bishop Martyn Jarrett who was vicar from 1981 to 1985. Normal service ringing preceded the service which was followed by a ‘hot fork buffet’ in the school hall. A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in the afternoon to complete the celebrations.

ALAN RIX

Runcorn quarter peal day

The day was to kick off fundraising for the rehang of the bells at Runcorn, Parish Church of All Saints.

Lymm, Ches. 25 Apr, 1280 Cambridgeshire S Major: Emily Waters 1, Rich Westman 2, Mark Hall 3, Iain Scott 4, Andrew Tyler 5, Simon Taylor 6, Louis Suggett 7, Laura M Davies (C) 8.

Grappenhall, Ches. 25 Apr, 1260 Grandire Triples: Emily Waters 1, Laura M Davies 2, Louis Suggett (C) 3, Mark Hall 4, Rich Westman 5, Iain Scott 6, Andrew Tyler 7, Simon Taylor 8.

Stretton, Ches. 25 Apr, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Emily Waters 1, Louis Suggett 2, Mark Hall 3, Andrew Tyler 4, Laura M Davies 5, Simon Taylor 6, Iain Scott 7, Rich Westman (C) 8. First Major as C. Rung after the wedding of one of the local ringers’ daughters, method chosen as both bride & groom grew up in Yorkshire.

Daresbury, Ches. 25 Apr, 1260 Steedman Triples: Laura M Davies 1, Emily Waters 2, Rich Westman 3, Mark Hall 4, Iain Scott 5, Louis Suggett (C) 6, Andrew Tyler 7, Simon Taylor 8.

Garston, Mer. 25 Apr, 1260 St Clement’s CB Major: Emily Waters 1, Iain Scott 2, Mark Hall 3, Rich Westman 4, Simon Taylor 5, Laura M Davies 6, Andrew Tyler 7, Louis Suggett (C) 8. In celebration of the 100% success rate of the QP Day!

The ringsers (l-r): Alan Rix, John Davidge, John Manley, Monica Trow, Peter Kemp, Linda Foddering, Michael Palmer and Peter Ward

At Garston after the final quarter (l-r): Louis Suggett, Rich Westman, Andrew Tyler, Emily Waters, Simon Taylor, Laura Davies, Mark Hall and Iain Scott
Meltham, Yorkshire

by John Eisel

A work continues on searching nineteenth-century newspapers for references to change ringing, a much clearer picture is emerging of its development during that period. Previously unrecorded peals are, of course, John reports of prize ringing, visits, obituaries of ringers, in fact anything that gives a more rounded picture. The type of material that can be found is exemplified by the story of Meltham, some of the history of which in the nineteenth is given below.

Meltham chapel was built in 1651 as a chapel of ease to Almondbury, possibly the only Anglican church to be built during the Interegnym. It was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. In the early 1830s there was a dispute about the presentation to the curacy, which was happily resolved, and a decision was then made to enlarge the chapel (now, of course, a parish in its own right). A new transept was to be built to house 300 scholars, with a room for the Sunday School beneath, and a new tower with a ring of six bells and a clock was also to be added to the chapel. A meeting held on 23rd February 1835 decided that, since subscriptions, together with a town rate and a grant, were adequate, the project should go ahead. The meeting was told that, although he did not have any property in the locality, Edmund Shaw, Esq., of Lingards (near Huddersfield), had promised to donate the new tenor bell. Although the meeting was also told that the foundation stone would be laid on 28th February 1835, the ceremony actually took place on 5th March 1835, with full masonic honours, and was reported at length. The bells had been ordered from Messrs. Taylor of Oxford, and the tenor bell was inscribed with the name of Edmund Shaw. According to the Revd Joseph Hughes, in his History of the Township of Meltham (1866), the bells arrived at Meltham on 1st February 1836, and by 20th February 1836 were ready for use. So far no report of either event has been traced in the local press. On 27th February 1836, a week after the bells were ready, the Leeds Mercury carried an advertisement for six good change ringers for Meltham, placed by three local manufacturers, listing various trades in which employment could be offered and stating that ‘A good Salary will be allowed for Ringing, besides Employment.’

The bells at Meltham were opened on 6th April 1836, when a prize-ringing took place, with prizes advertised as totalling 20 guineas. This competition had been widely advertised (Leeds Intelligencer and Leeds Mercury, Saturday 12th March 1835, and Bell’s Life in London, Sunday, 13th March 1836) but the publicity did not mention what was to be rung as a test piece: this was likely to have been three 720s, which was the usual length for six-bell competitions in the area at the time. From a report that appeared in Jackson’s Oxford Journal on 23rd April 1836—no doubt submitted by Messrs. Taylor—we learn that fourteen sets of ringers entered, and that Almondbury old set won first prize (£8), Saddleworth the second (£6), Kirkheaton old set the third (£4), and Mirfield the fourth (£2). In addition, £1 was given to the bands from Darfield and South Kirkby who had come the greatest distance. The report concluded that ‘The whole passed off with the greatest hilarity and good feeling.’

However, despite what was claimed, there was an underrun of ill will at this prize ringing. There was an odd item in the Halifax Guardian of Saturday, 6th August 1836 which reported that ‘We are informed that the Huddersfield ringers intend to challenge the Meltham ringers, to ring three treble peals for any sum from £50 to £500.’ Nothing seems to have come of this, which presumably was either an error, or related to the band that was recruited earlier in the year. More likely it related to a match that took place at Meltham on 14th September 1836. From the report that appeared in the Leeds Intelligencer three days later, it appears that the Kirkheaton ringers were dissatisfied with the result of the ringing match at the opening of Meltham bells, and another match was arranged there, for a prize of £6 6s. Six bands were invited to ring, Almondbury, Kirkheaton, Holmflirth, Mirfield, Saddleworth and Huddersfield, and subsequently the Almondbury juniors (known as the ‘bobbin-winders’) were included. As was unusual the number of faults for each band was reported, and Almondbury seniors beat Kirkheaton by having 440 fewer faults, with Holmflirth having the same number of faults as Almondbury, and so were joint first. But there had been foul play, and the report went on to say:

‘The Almondbury men met with a serious interruption from some miscreant throwing a stone through the belfry window; which so startled them at the moment, that in justice they ought to have had at least 100 faults deducted. The Holmflirth ringers honourably acknowledged that the Almondbury men were superior, and declined ringing the peal again, leaving the palm of victory with Almondbury. Notwithstanding the shameful interruption the latter suffered, they most generously divided the prize with the Holmflirth men.’

This was not the end of the bad feeling between the ringers of Almondbury and those of Kirkheaton, and the Leeds Times of 16th September 1837 published a challenge from the Kirkheaton band to the Almondbury band to ring for a bet of £20, the test piece to be from four to seven ‘peals’ (720s). The dispute rumbled on for a long time, and a match was held at Rothwell on 6 November 1837, when the Kirkheaton band was successful. But the dispute continued, and the last communication in the series was not published in the Leeds Times until 28th January 1838. What is relevant to the second prize ringing at Meltham is an allegation that appeared in a lengthy letter supporting the Almondbury ringers, written by John Lodge, one of that band, which appeared in the Leeds Times on 30th December 1837:

‘We again state that the Ringers who attended the Second Prize Ringing at that place [sic], believed that the Ringers of Kirkheaton had engaged some low characters who accompanied them to do the mischief. The people of Meltham believe the same until this day.’

This ongoing dispute is really peripheral to ringing at Meltham, and while it was going on, a band was being taught at Meltham, possibly by the ringers engaged after the bells were installed. Excellent progress was made, and on 24th May 1837 the Blackburn Standard reported:

BELL RINGING. — The junior set of ringers of Meltham, near Huddersfield, who commenced learning only five months ago, have been able to complete 5040 changes on the bells of Meltham church in two hours and fifty-five minutes.

It is possible that this report was copied from elsewhere, but if so, the primary report has not been traced, and the exact date of the peal is not known, nor what was rung.

Over the succeeding years there was a connection between Meltham and prize ringing; in August 1871 a report of a second peal rung on the bells at Meltham church in two hours and forty-five minutes.

The only participating bands that are mentioned in the press reports were relatively local, though, and the test piece was not mentioned. Another prize ringing ‘open to all England’ took place at Meltham on 22nd April 1862, when twelve bands took part, and the test piece was ‘three treble peals’—i.e. three 720s of treble bob. Meltham ringers was not recorded as taking part in the second of the two above ringing matches, nor would they have taken part in the first, being excluded as the home band. However, from time to time the band did take part in such matches elsewhere, but without any outstanding success. This may only have been because there was such a high standard of ringing in the area, as the band at Meltham was evidently capable; on Saturday, 6th May 1871 a report of a second peal rung on the bells at Meltham by the local band appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle.

BELL RINGING. — On Saturday afternoon, six Meltham ringers ascended the tower of Meltham Church, and rung 5,040 changes in three hours and six minutes. So many changes have not been rung on these bells before for 33 years, and Mr. Abram Woodhead then, as now, took part in the ringing. The peals rung were “London scholars,” “College pleasure,” “City delight,” “Duke of York,” “Oxford,” “Violet,” and “New London.” The ringers were Jonas Chappell, treble; B. Woodhead, 2nd; John Hardcastle, 3rd; Wm. Haigh, 4th; Abram Woodhead, 5th; and Ammon Broad bent, tenor; the weight of the tenor being 13cwt. The peals were conducted by
Ringing World National Youth Contest

Saturday, 11th July 2015

The Judges

We promised that we would bring you more news about the judges for the contest this weekend:

David Pipe – Chief Judge

David really needs no introduction to many of you. He comes from a family with a long tradition of ringing stretching back over 200 years. He started his ringing career in Birmingham and first rang in the 12 bell contest in 1982, aged 14, as part of the winning team. He helped install the ring of 16 at the Bull Ring in 1991 and became conductor of the band at that time. In 2004 he and his family moved to Cambridge where they joined the band at Great St Mary’s. David enjoys ringing handbells and since being in Cambridge has discovered the wonderful world of treble dodging Minor. In 2007 he rang in the longest peal ever – 72,000 changes comprising one extent each of 100 different TD Minor methods, taking 24 hours and 9 minutes. He is delighted to be involved in the Youth contest and is very much looking forward to a good day’s ringing. His young assistant judges this year are:

Rosemary Hill

Rosemary learnt to ring in 2000 at Hursley, Hampshire and was a regular band member there for the next eleven years including one year as deputy tower captain. She has been a member of the Hursley 12-Bell team on several occasions. Rosemary rang her first peal in 2003. She says “I decided it wasn’t much fun, and didn’t ring another for about two years. However, I got keener, and in 2008 I joined the Society of Cumberland Youths, much to my parents’ approval. In 2011 I started university in London, and quickly became quite involved with the ULSOCR. Over the four years I spent as a student member I was Librarian and then Master of the Society. Ringing in London provided me with many opportunities, and this year I was very happy to ring for the UL in the 12 Bell eliminator in Shrewsbury.” Now that she has graduated Rosemary is planning on staying in London for a little while yet and says she is hoping to do lots more exciting ringing in the future.

Laura Davies

Laura learnt to ring age 12, on a light ring of eight in rural mid Wales, and was introduced to change ringing soon after by Neil Bennett. Just over a year later she rang her first peal, which was Cambridge Surprise Major inside. She says “I started University in Cambridge in 2013, and for two academic years had an amazing time ringing at St Martin’s and St Philip’s where I rang my first peals of some complex methods on 12 bells, including Orton, Riged and Avon. I did far too much ringing, but somehow managed to pass my first two years! I also took on the role of the University Society ringing master earlier this year.”

Laura says she has been very lucky to have had a lot of opportunities and encouragement over the last few years, and feels it is very important to push yourself if you are keen: “because I found that I was able to ring things I never thought possible with a lot of effort and interest in learning. People will recognise your potential, and encourage you by giving you opportunities, so grab them while you can!” She is proud to have rung in all four previous RW Youth Competitions and says she is delighted to have been asked to judge this year.

Tim Holmes

Tim started ringing in 2009, at the age of 14. He learnt to ring at Richmond, North Yorkshire, ringing his first peal there in 2010. Two years ago he started at university in London, where he rings with the University of London Society. He was elected as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths while still in Yorkshire, and now rings a variety of methods at their 12-bell practices in London towers. These towers include St Paul’s Cathedral, where he also frequently rings for Sunday services. He has rung for the UL and College Youths in the London 12-bell competition, and for the UL in the last two National 12-bell Contest eliminators.

For more information about the contest see: http://rnyc.ringingworld.co.uk/

Child Protection & Bell Ringing

New legislation requires registration for certain face-to-face training and transport of young persons. Seek advice from your Parish, Diocese, local ringing society or visit the Central Council website www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship

• Always have two adults present when children are being taught
• Invite parents of young trainees to come and watch a training session before allowing their child to start to learn. Require a parent to attend the first training session and ensure that the parent fully understands what is involved in learning to ring
• Make sure a parent has agreed to any transport arrangements for young people travelling to and from ringing activities
• Ask parents to sign a “permission to learn” form to ring
• Keep an attendance register
• Be aware of the insurance position for children
• Do not allow young people into a potentially hazardous situation without appropriate adult supervision
• For tower outings get parents to sign a detailed permission form. Organisers should be aware of Health & Safety and other issues; for example, it is inadvisable for a child to travel alone in a car with an adult.
George Wareham

19th June 1921 – 4th January 2015

For his 80th birthday George Wareham announced that he was going to have his wake so he could see who turned up, and on 19th June 2001 160 people came to St Leonard’s, Marston Bigot for ringing, a service including Grandside Triples on handbells and a sumptuous ringers’ tea. He would have chuckled to know that 13 years later over 200 people attended his funeral and six peals and 25 quarter peals were dedicated to him.

George arrived in Trudoxhill when he was 10 years old, the family having moved from Chewton Mendip, where he had been born to the sound of the bells in June 1921, as he often said “sealing his fate”. His father was a dairy farmer and George’s childhood was spent on the farm helping out and learning how to manage a farm. He won many awards for thatched hayricks and often told of learning methods while perched on a three-legged stool milking with his head against a cow’s flank. George was introduced to ringing by chaperoning his elder sister Ida and her beau Jim Luker, who was a ringer at St Leonard’s Marston Bigot, once the 10-year-old George went up the tower he was hooked. He learned to ring under the tutelage of Mr Mills from Frome Tower, and quickly became a valued member of the band. When the war started George was prevented from enlisting due to the need for farm produce. But he did his bit for the war effort on the farm and in the Home Guard, where he reached the rank of Sergeant, and told stories that the writers of ‘Dads Army’ would have loved to have written. He wasted no time returning to ringing after the war and continued until he was over 90. In 2012 he went into a care home due to failing health, but continued to enjoy hearing of progress by his band.

In May 1945 ringing introduced him to his wife Hilda, who was sitting on the wall outside the church one evening, and in 1947 they were married at St Leonard’s. Two children, Helen and Paul followed and were introduced to the bells as early as possible. Ringing became a part of family life around milking, the milk round and managing the farm. A number of family quarters were rung, including in-laws, children and grandchildren as the years progressed. Hilda suffered bad health and sadly died suddenly in 1999, at which point George threw himself into ringing, and was rarely home any evening. He declared that the six at Marston were the best bells in England (after Chewton Mendip) and was very doubtful about suggestions of augmentation to eight when it became clear work was needed on them. However a 7th bell was donated in memory of Tom Chapman, so the decision was made, and, once the work was completed by Matthew Higby, George agreed that far from being ruined they were now a very fine eight.

George was tower captain at Marston Bigot for 45 years, and handed over to Helen in 1990 declaring that he was getting too old to organise it all, but didn’t really let go of the reins for another 20 years. George rang a few full peals, but was a doubles ringer first and foremost and loved ringing quarter peals (over 100 one year when he was in his 80s). He was passionate about recruiting ringers and helping others learn. There are far too many people to mention that George introduced to ringing, but he was very proud of those who went on to be high flyers, tower captains, or teachers of ringing. Most nights of the week and twice (or more) on Sundays they would travel around the Frome branch helping out at practice, service, wedding and funeral ringing. He arranged regular outings, and mustered groups to go on open days, ensuring a good lunch was featured, with pudding of course. In his later years he instigated regular practices for retired people, which were fondly known as George’s Playgroup. He initiated the Bath and Wells Young Ringer Award, and donated a trophy for this, but never wanted to be in the limelight. However he briefly held the post of Frome Branch Chairman, was elected an honorary life member and had over 80 years’ service to Bath and Wells Diocesan Association at the time of his death.

On a morning in January 2015 he didn’t wake up, and left behind two children, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. His funeral service at St Leonards was a true celebration of his life and he achieved his wish of being carried out to the sound of Stedman triples on his beloved Marston Bigot bells. He often said “any time not ringing is time wasted”.

VICKI ROWSE
Ringing and family friend

See peal reports on p.699.

Quarter peals rung in memory of George Wareham

Wanstrow, Som. 7 Jan, 1269 Cambridge S Minor: Matthew Higby (C) 1, Claire O’Mahony 2, Andy Mead 3, Claire O’Mahony 4, David Massey 5, Andy Mead 6. Arranged and rung to celebrate the life of our dear friend George Wareham.

Ston Easton, Som. 8 Jan, 1269 Cambridge S Minor: George E Wyatt 1, Andrew H Ball 2, Lorna E Swan 3, Matthew Higby (C) 4, A Roy Shalliss 5, Gerald V Skelly 6, in memory of George Wareham. 600th together 24.


Marston Bigot, Som. (S Leonard) 15 Jan, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Lorna E Swan 1, Mervyn A Arscott 2, Matthew Higby (C) 3, Janet K Wyatt 4, Claire O’Mahony 5, A Roy Shalliss 6, Gerald V Skelly 7. Andrew H Ball 8. Remembering George Wareham.


See also the following.

Oswestry, Shrops. 4 Jan, 1250 Yorkshire S Major, published on p.52.

Winford, Som. 7 Jan, 1280 Lincolnshire S Major, published on p.117.

West Cranmore, Som. 9 Jan, 1320 Aloo Gobi S Minor, published on p.85.

Leigh on Mendip, Som. 11 Jan, 1260 Doubles (4m), published on p.85.

Nunney, Som. 13 Jan, 1260 Doubles (3m/3v), published on p.117.

Bradford on Tone, Som. 15 Jan, 1260 PB Minor, published on p.117.

Marston Bigot, Som. 19 Jan, 1260 Stedman Triples, published on p.141.

Chilcompton, Som. 20 Jan, 1440 London No.3 S Major, published on p.144.

Fivehead, Som. 21 Jan, 1260 Hull Botanic Gardens Minor, published on p.141.

Ashwick, Som. 28 Jan, 1260 Grandsire Doubles, published on p.185.

Marston Bigot, Som. (S Leonard) 7 Feb, 1288 Grandside Triples, published on p.189.

Wanstrow, Som. 7 Feb, 1296 Cambridge S Minor, published on p.190.


St Ston Easton, Som. 7 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Doubles, published on p.236.

Rode, Som. 15 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Doubles, published on p.309.


See peal reports on p.689.

PLEASE try to use the correct e-mail address when sending items to The Ringing World. This will help to avoid confusion and speed up publication. See inside front cover for the full list of addresses.
Worcestershire wedding

The Worcestershire countryside was abuzz with people and bellringing on Saturday, 19th April 2014, for the beautiful wedding of Tracey Aplin and Christopher Phillips at St Edburga’s church in Leigh.

Chris is well known to many ringers both locally and nationally, for his love of bells both very large and very small. He is the meticulous steeple keeper to the fine peal of Worcester Cathedral together with his tower captaincy at Leigh itself. Whilst Tracey is a non-ringer, she regularly joins Chris in the more social side of our art.

Prior to the big day, Tracey enjoyed a hen weekend in Liverpool whilst Chris, determined to do things in style, enjoyed two ‘Stag’ quarter peals, with him turning in the tenors at Wells and Exeter Cathedrals, both arranged and conducted by the best man.

More ringing friends joined Chris in a trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach to sample the rollercoasters. This was followed by a night out and Sunday morning ringing at Liverpool Cathedral. Many thanks to the locals for making us so welcome.

The wedding day started with a successful quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor on Chris’s own (24oz tenor) mini-ring at Lower House Farm. The band included the groom, best man, an usher, the organist and two close ringing friends. This being, arguably, the most stressful part of the proceedings, we changed and posed for photos before adjourning to the church to hear members of The Worcester Cathedral Guild, score another fine quarter of Cambridge Minor prior to the service.

The beautiful spring day saw people gathering from all over the country and indeed further afield, with large contingencies from the local area and also from Tracey’s native Staffordshire.

The bride looked stunning and was ably supported by her bridesmaids, all close relatives and friends of the couple. The male members of the wedding party all scrubbed up well, and looked splendid in top hat and tails.

The beautiful service was led by The Revd Andrew Bullock, this being his last service at Leigh before his retirement. Hymns and wedding marches were accompanied by the organ (ably played by Robin Walker) and trumpet.

The newly married couple emerged to more ringing courtesy of The Worcester Cathedral Guild for the traditional photographs to be taken.

Guests then proceeded to The Bank House Hotel in Bransford for a sumptuous wedding breakfast, followed by evening reception and dancing until the early hours. Early the next week, the couple continued on to an enjoyable honeymoon near Lake Vyrnwy.

I am sure everyone will be pleased to join with me and wish Chris and Tracey all the best for their future life together.

M.R.T.H.

Wells, Som. (Cathedral) 9 Feb, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Nick Bowden 1, Andy Mead 2, Claire O’Mahony 3, Andrew H Ball 4, George E Wyatt 5, Gerald V Skelly 6, Matthew Higby (C) 7, Chris Phillips 8. Stag do warm up for 8. For evensong.


Leigh Sinton, Worcs. (Lower House) 19 Apr, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Christopher D Phillips (Groom) 1, Mark A Wilson 2, Matthew R T Higby (Best Man) 3, Robin J Walker (Organist) 4, Michael G Clements (Reader) 5, David P Bagley (Usher) (C) 6. Rung on the morning of the marriage of Tracey Aplin to Christopher Phillips. On the back 6.

Leigh, Worcs. 19 Apr, 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Alex Hajok 1, Jim Clatworthy 2, Mark Regan (C) 3, Bernard Taylor 4, Dan Jones 5, Ashley Forsey 6. Rung before the wedding of Tracey Aplin and Chris Phillips by Worcester Cathedral ringers with our best wishes.

Queries about non publication

QUERIES about non-publication of peal or quarter peal reports should be made to RW Admin:
admin@ringingworld.co.uk

Please do not email the Editor with such queries in the first instance.

ALSO – before you make a query please double check that you have ticked the ‘send to print’ option in BellBoard – failure to do this is behind the vast majority of such queries
**Notices**

**Meeting on Saturday July 18**

**BISHOPS STORTFORD DISTRICT.** Ringing: 19.00-18.30 Brent Pelham (6-bell). 3008

**DERBY D A.** Peak District. Ringing at Holmfirth 6.30-8pm. All welcome. 3010

**KCACR.** Rochester District. Quarterly Meeting at Milton Regis (6). Ringing from 10am, followed by refreshments and business meeting. Names for refreshments to Doug Davis doug.kacr@outlook.com by Wednesday 15th July. All welcome. 3011

**KACR.** Tonbridge District. Evening Practice, East Peckham (6), ringing 7.45pm. All welcome. 3013

**LADIES GUILD.** South Eastern District. All Day Outing. Saturday 18th July 2015. Details from Helen Webb (helenwebb93@hotmail.co.uk) or Isabel Pearce (01732 742218). Everyone welcome. 3008

**LDG.** Harvestboard District. Practice will be held at Gaultby (6) from 3-5pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided. All welcome. 3017

**LDG.** West Lindsey Branch. Ring, walk & picnic. Springthorpe (4) 2.30-3.30pm. Walk & picnic Upton (6) 6-7pm.

**POD.** Wellborough Branch Meeting at Incherst from 3-6pm with a short business meeting at 4.30pm. The Surprise Minor Meeting will be at Orlingbury from 10am.

**SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM DIOCESEAN GUILD.** Newark District. Meeting Saturday 18th July at Rolleston. Bells 3pm. Tea 4.45pm in the church followed by the meeting. Further ringing until 7.15pm. Names for tea to Bryan Northcote Tel: 01636 812579 by Wednesday 15th July. 3012

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**Multi Services**

**Learning the Ropes**

A progressive learning scheme for ringers, from the Association of Ringing Teachers

**June 2015**

**Level 1 – Bell Handling**

Jack Cooke – Abingdon St Helen’s Albert Lewis – St Leonard’s, Deal Chloe Harris – Northfield Sally Ann Starkey – Carlisle Cathedral Finlay Tottrel – Newton St Loe Bethany Davies – St Editha, Tamworth Peter Leavold – Horsington David Archer – St George Colegate, Norwich Lucia Maria Haines – Stratton St Margaret Kath Laidler – Stratton St Margaret Patricia Churchill – Stratton St Margaret Emma Hiscocks – South Marston Carolanne Robertson – Westerham Clare Gebel – Goldhanger Bryony Miles – Horsington Peter Leavold – Yarlington Patricia Larman – Great Barton Anthea Hiams – Crick Sam Jeffries – Easton in Gordano Helen Disley – Church Gresley Belinda Crowther – Storturyse Kate Bennett – St Mary’s, Bridgewater Robert Crowther – Storturyse

**Level 2 – Foundation Ringing Skills**

Julie Domian – Newton St Loe

Adam Shard – Bury St Edmunds

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**Level 3 – Intro to Change Ringing**

Gordon Gray – All Saints, Marsworth

Adam Shard – Bury St Edmunds

**Level 4 – Novice Change Ringer**

Mark Heritage – Tiverton, St Peter

Adam Shard – Bury St Edmunds

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**THE RINGING FOUNDATION LIMITED**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

that the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Saturday 8th August 2015 at St Botolph Without, Aldgate, London EC3N 1AB at 2pm for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the Company’s seventh Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Company’s statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014
3. To note the intention of the Board significantly to alter the emphasis of activity within the charity’s objects.
4. To appoint Directors. Duncan Walker retires by rotation and is eligible for re-election.
5. To transact any other business of the Company.

By order of the Board

Robert Hancock – Registered office Company Secretary 3, St Cuthbert’s Court Lincoln

Date: 24th May 2015

Without, Aldgate, London EC3N 1AB at 2pm for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the Company’s seventh Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Company’s statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014
3. To note the intention of the Board significantly to alter the emphasis of activity within the charity’s objects.
4. To appoint Directors. Duncan Walker retires by rotation and is eligible for re-election.
5. To transact any other business of the Company.

By order of the Board

Robert Hancock – Registered office Company Secretary 3, St Cuthbert’s Court

Date: 24th May 2015

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**Notices**

We print Notices as submitted so please ensure that what you send as the text of your notice is exactly what you intend to appear, and is clearly readable.
In business, theatre, the professions and in politics networking is a serious matter. One must develop contacts to advance and succeed. Gaining networking skills has become an integral part of management development; whole programmes are devoted to it.

Many bellringers are superb networkers. If you wish to rise to the heights of the art, who you know (and who knows you) is at least as important as what you know. I suspect that one of the reasons for the value of networking for ringers is that the social structure of ringing is fluid. Unlike, say, many church choirs, we don’t all ring in the same band all the time. So contacts are needed. How else would we be likely to be invited to ring in a peal?

A couple of hints to develop networking skills. First, be visible. Attend every tower, meeting, function you possibly can and be conspicuous. Volunteer for, be appointed to, committees – taking care not to be lumbered with any position that demands a lot of work. Ideally, be a co-ordinator: that means the people you are co-ordinating will do all the hard graft (assuming the English meaning of the term). Become prominent, so that you are recognized and stand out among the herd. Get to know all the important people by name and meet and greet them at every opportunity. As they used to say: press the flesh. Bonhommie is vital.

Give praise to the powerful (and those on the way up) constantly. Be aware of their accomplishments and shower them with compliments. Ask them to recount their achievements: we all like to have our successes recognized and, although we might protest, we all love a bit of flattery. [In fact, most really important people relish all flattery bestowed upon them because so often their positions and reputations are fragile.]

Be supportive of those whom you wish to impress. Discover their preferences and endorse them. Subscribe to their opinions, seek their advice, admire their wisdom. I read recently that “The aim is fit in by saying the right things, not to challenge the received wisdom.” O that I had been told that in my youth! And that I had followed such sound advice.

Above all, be organized and be persistent. Maintain diaries, address books, and develop a routine. It is so much easier these days with e-mails, Facebook, Twitter and it costs next to nothing. You can always find something of interest for members of your network as long as it is focused on them, not you. However, don’t overdo the frequency of communication: be subtle.

Most important is to make it all seem spontaneous. However much each contact has been planned, it must appear to be almost accidental. “Fancy seeing you! What a pleasant surprise!” Practice it, and you won’t appear to be a hypocrite.

So what happened to the networking workshops? Abandoned after the first one. Coincidentally, middle managers were instructed not to congregate near the tea-making facilities. We claimed we were only socializing to gain advantage. For some, it is an attribute that needs to be developed, nurtured and, above all, practiced.

In the last job I had before I retired, my boss was a woman who suddenly and enthusiastically embraced the concept of networking. Maybe, just maybe, that was because it had been espoused by the national head of the organization who had adopted it after attending a symposium on the subject and apparently had read about it in the Harvard Business Review.

As training manager, I was given the task of arranging workshops for middle managers, introducing them to networking and the benefits it would bring. The first challenge was finding suitable professionals to deliver a two-day programme. That condition, two days, eliminated most of the top executive development consultants who told me quite firmly that to grasp the fundamentals of networking would require a week at least, and be off-site and residential, away from the interruptions and lack of continuity that would occur in the workplace.

Out of the question, said boss, who regarded the training budget as something not to be committed, but to be preserved so that, later in the year, when money was being clawed back by Finance & Administration, she could demonstrate what a responsible, thrifty and loyal department head she was. So we got a cheap, truncated, programme. I could sense the outcome when the facilitator started the first workshop in a time-honoured way: he picked the audience’s brains with a question. Silence. I knew this group well. They had been planned, it must appear to be almost spontaneous. However much each contact has been planned, it must appear to be almost accidental. “Fancy seeing you! What a pleasant surprise!” Practice it, and you won’t appear to be a hypocrite.

So what happened to the networking workshops? Abandoned after the first one. Coincidentally, middle managers were instructed not to congregate near the tea-making facilities. We claimed we were only socializing to gain advantage. For some, it is an attribute that needs to be developed, nurtured and, above all, practiced.

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Around & About

DofE Silver Award ‘Skill’: Bellringing

Edward Benz and Stephen Mitchell

On 23rd June Edward Benz (16) rang the tenor at St Dunstan’s, Cranford to his first peal, having cycled there from Twickenham, the day after completing multiple GCSE exams! In so doing he achieved the target I had set for him in March (as his ‘assessor’) for the ‘skill’ element of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme ‘Silver’ award.

Edward’s father, Otto, has been tower captain of All Hallows, Twickenham since 2000, so Edward has been a regular visitor to our belfry since he was a small child. After some introductory ringing sessions when at primary school, Edward learnt to handle a bell in the early years of secondary school. There are many other distractions for teenage boys, not all of them academic, so ringing has been a welcome outlet for Edward.

His home tower was Halesworth (Suffolk) – and sounded a bell – this was the first time he had seen ringers at work. At the outset, Edward could ring rounds. In regular ringing sessions between March and May, we worked on developing Edward’s competence in ringing bells up and down (singly and then in peal), simple call changes, covering on 6, 8 and 10, and plain hunting on 4 and 5. Having an Abel simulator at Twickenham helped with this programme, at least until one of the sensors stopped working!

By May, Edward was ready for a quarter peal as a build up to a peal. Unfortunately the one quarter peal attempt that we could fit into Edward’s packed revision and exam schedule was lost after 40 minutes. As he was heading off to sail round the Isle of Wight two days after his last exam, we had to go straight for the peal. I duly assembled a band of experienced peal ringers, and Edward covered a well-rung, problem-free peal in five Doubles methods. Cranford Park is an award winning green oasis, in spite of the nearby M4 and the main flight path to Heathrow overhead, and it attracts a lot of visitors on a sunny, summer afternoon. Dorothy Barker listened to the whole peal from the park, and received positive comments about the bells from numerous people.

Modest as ever about his achievements, Edward’s response to congratulatory messages was: “I’m now on my way to becoming a bellringer”?

Next year he aims to tackle the Gold award. What would you propose as a bellringing target for that? Not wanting to aim low, my opening bid is a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor. Meanwhile we need to keep him ringing, in the face of more alluring attractions!

Stephen Mitchell
Ringing Master
All Hallows Twickenham

Sir Peter Heywood

At the Bath Abbey practice on Monday, 15th June, there was a most welcome non-ringing visitor – Sir Peter Heywood, great-grandson of Sir Arthur, founder and first President of the Central Council. Sir Peter was delighted that the work of his great-grandfather was remembered, and although he has visited the belfry at Duffield – and sounded a bell – this was the first time he had seen ringers at work.

Will Willans