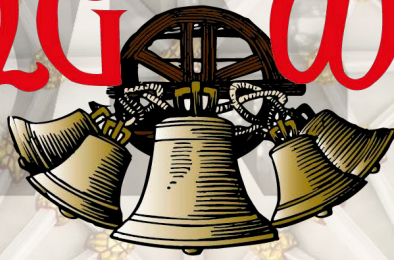


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35A High Street, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1LJ
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Registered Office:

35A High Street, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1LJ

Directors:

D W Grimwood

(Chairman, dwgrimwood@gmail.com),

D G Davis, G R D Lay,

C F Roulstone, D L Smith,

R A Smith, R J Wallis

Company Secretary:

Claire F Roulstone, 3 Stocks Farm Cottages,
The Street, Bramley, Hampshire, RG26 5BP
companysecretary@ringingworld.co.uk

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On the cover

Last Saturday, 4th July, we were looking forward to welcoming 27 teams of young ringers and their supporters to York for this year's Ringing World National Youth Contest. The headquarters for the day was to have been York Minster, and our cover picture by **Jack Pease** shows one of the many magnificent stained-glass windows in this great building. The Minster has the largest collection of medieval stained glass in the UK, with the earliest pieces dating from the late 12th century. The window pictured is one of the largest surviving narrative windows in Europe; it is located in the South Quire aisle and is dedicated to St Cuthbert, one of Northern England's most significant saints. It is thought to date from c.1440 and is the only surviving whole stained glass window dedicated to the life of the saint.

We are still hoping to bring the RWNYC to York in the near future, possibly as soon as 2021, when competitors and supporters will have

the opportunity to see the grandeur of the Minster first hand, and to ring on its fabulous 12 bells. Thoughts of a national gathering of young ringers in 2020 are diminishing as the lockdown continues, despite recent easing, but this issue of the RW focuses on the activities that have been keeping some of our youth groups in touch and making progress over recent months. We also hear from some of those for whom this year's contest would have been their last. We wish them well as they begin their next chapters, in education or work, and hope that ringing continues to play a part in their lives; please consider staying involved with the RWNYC as helpers or stewards in future years.

DAVID G HULL
RWNYC Organiser

Want to enter *The Ringing World's* front cover competition? Submit your photos on *BellBoard* (log in and click 'Add photo') or to frontpage@ringingworld.co.uk. If we use your image we'll award a £25 prize and a free copy of that issue.

Editorial

This week's issue should be reporting on the RWNYC, at which several hundred young ringers would have gazed up at the grand York Minster window on our front cover. Instead we have tried to give this issue a bit of a youth theme, and the central fourteen pages of this bumper issue are all youth-related. We asked the youth teams if they would like to contribute their news about what they've been getting up to in the past months, and from a few sentences to a few pages, they responded magnificently. Recurring again and again in these reports are the importance of social bonds, the time put in by hardworking team leaders, and what an amazing resource the online platform Ringing Room has been for keeping bands together and developing during coronavirus restrictions.

We also hear about, and from, some of this year's Contest graduates, with some leaders writing glowingly of their young adults and some of the graduates writing for themselves as they move to become the leaders of tomorrow. Many will go to university and join student societies – in our 'A word with...' interview we meet Estella Haynes, who would have been one of the student co-judges this year; Katherine Fowler's piece reports on ULSCR activity through lockdown from an outsider's perspective; and the strength of those university social bonds is particularly shown in Janet Dines's recollection of university ringing sustaining her through personal hardship.

Of course, we have to get young ringers 'through the door' first. We have an update from the Central Council's new schools and youth groups workgroup looking at this issue. Our feature article is Jason Hughes's inspiring report on developing a whole suite of Year 5 lessons on ringing, touching most core curriculum subjects. Mary Jones has a slightly less conventional idea for recruitment.

Sadly the celebration of youth ringing in this issue is contrasted with a few controversial topics. As Linda Garton says, 'it is clear that a huge amount of very good work is going on' in the Central Council at the moment, but she raises concerns about their proposal for registering small societies, introduced in last week's issue. For the second week, our letters pages are dominated by discussion about the appropriate path back to ringing amid coronavirus risk.

Correction

We apologise that in Simon Linford's article 'Registered Small Societies – when small is beautiful' printed last week (p.647), a reference to a webpage was not accompanied by a web address. The proposed motion, amended Rules and Standing Order can be found at: ccbr.org.uk/about/governance/registered-small-societies/.

This was corrected in the online edition before publication.



Young Ringers – Schools & Youth Groups Workgroup Update – June 2020



As one of the newest Council Workgroups, our team is still very much in the formation stages of its lifecycle. The report below outlines our strategy objective, and what we have been doing in our rather short lifetime.

Our Goal

The group has a very clear and concise (although not necessarily easy to deliver) goal:

- To establish new long-term sources of recruits from schools and youth groups.

I am sure it is apparent to most of us that for some time now the number of young people taking up our art is on the decline, and that we can no longer rely on our age-old sources to feed in new 'young' recruits. If we look around the ringing community as a whole, it doesn't take much scrutiny to see that in most areas, this decline has resulted in a generation gap within the ringing community of at least one whole generation, probably more. To continue as we are without positive action will almost certainly result in a further decline in numbers.

The goal of this group is not to try to mend the aforementioned gap, but rather to reverse the decline, by identifying and engaging with other sources of potential young ringers, to promote bell ringing as an option.

It is wholly understood that this work is not a single passport to success. We also need (amongst many other things) to have good coaches and a good underlying leadership platform. In some places this exists, but alas in many it does not. There begins the subject of retention which will need first to understand the gaps in the bigger picture so that young ringing doesn't just develop in isolated bubbles.

The Strategy Statement above goes on to read:

... and make sure they transition through higher education and beyond.

Although closely linked to the Schools and Youth Groups work, it is considered important enough in its own right to warrant some dedicated focus under the banner of 'Young Ringers – Universities & Colleges', headed up by Ian Roulstone. These two groups will work closely together as there are a number of overlaps.

The Team

Our team currently has six active members (mainly teachers), five of whom have met twice since the inception of the Workgroup in April of this year. The sixth member has recently joined us, and a small number of further additions may be made to the group in the coming months to ensure we have all bases covered. We are rapidly gaining an understanding the strengths of our current

membership and where we have gaps that need to be filled.

What so far?

As already mentioned, we have held two meetings now. Both of these have been energetic and productive. We have another scheduled in mid-July with the intention of holding them every 5–6 weeks going forward for the time being.

● Schools

What with most of our group being educators (either past or present), it is not surprising that most of what we have considered so far is schools-related. Amongst other things we have discussed how we could fit in with Enrichment Programmes for different age groups, which year groups to perhaps avoid (exam periods), and what we may be able to do to get ringing into the classroom via focused lesson plans. Our biggest challenge is likely to be how we get this into schools which do not have ringers on their staff – but one thing at a time, we have to have an offering which is mutually beneficial first.

● Youth Groups

Far less debate has been had in this area. Although there is a general awareness amongst the group of these organisations and their working, we have not yet got enough information to make significant headway. Having said that, there are many contacts being followed up to help us understand the operating models of groups such as Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade and DofE.

Once we have a more clear picture of how these groups operate, we will be better placed to understand how we may fit in, what we would need to offer, and what paths we need to take to sell our wares.

Next Steps

Our key next step is to continue conversations both inside and outside the team to build our knowledge and identify avenues of opportunity. This will also help to complete the 'forming' of the workgroup in terms of membership. Once we have plugged our knowledge gaps and onboarded people where appropriate, we will be on good footing to move forward and deliver something meaningful.

A specific item of work we are actively starting is to build a lesson plan portfolio. Our esteemed president has been known to use the words 'well stocked larder' on several occasions, especially during the PPE project, and although we are probably going to use 'resource bank' rather than 'larder', there is a clear understand that we need to start building a set of good quality resources which can be easily accessed by those that need them.

Can you help?

Below is a list of areas where we feel input from the wider community would be helpful. Anything you feel able to share can be sent to syglead@cccbr.org.uk.

Schools – For teachers and others, if you have any lesson plans which refer to ringing (any subject and no matter what the format),

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and you are willing to share them with the wider community, we would really love to see them. In addition, it would be great to see ideas for cross curricular and enrichment activities.

Scouts & Guides – We would be very keen to understand people's experiences with ringing youth groups such as Scouts and Guides (plus others). Both those with positive and perhaps not so positive outcomes.

DofE – This is an area to which we would like to add some real structure. Some enquiries are already being made but any DofE experiences and/or suggestions would be welcome.

Anything Else – If you have anything at all you feel you could add to this workgroup, please do share it. The more input we have, the greater our chances of success in delivering results.

COLIN NEWMAN
Young Ringers –

Schools & Youth Groups Lead
syglead@cccbr.org.uk



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Unlocking ringing

SIR, – What on earth is the Stewardship & Management Workgroup playing at? Are they trying to dissuade us from ever ringing again? The Risk Assessment guidance paper runs to 58 subheadings, some in red in case we wouldn't get the point if printed in black. It is almost shocking that anyone should think that we need to be lectured in such fine detail on matters that, in many points of detail, constitute sound management practice regardless of COVID – which is in any case fast becoming history. Some are simply ridiculous – in all my ringing years I have never seen anyone spit on hands or ropes, which would be gross in any circumstances. Please assume that the vast majority of ringers are experienced enough, not merely in ringing but in sound behavioural matters, and can be left to manage our own risks in life.

It would also help if the advice offered by the CC as to dates when ringing may begin agreed with the advice from government and the separate advice from the Church of England.

ANTHONY F. BAINBRIDGE
Codford St Peter, Wiltshire

* * * * *

SIR, – I am writing to express my astonishment at the message from Simon Linford, CCCBR President in the *Ringing World* edition of 26th June ('Returning to ringing', p.623).

How can the CCCBR possibly say 'The scene is set for a cautious return to ringing'? That may, possibly, be the case in England, but it is not the case in Scotland, nor in many other countries. I was under the misapprehension that one of the roles of the CCCBR was to represent ringers everywhere. By assuming that the situation in England is replicated across the UK, or more widely, demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the situation.

The statement 'that made us determined to find out who was advising the Government ...' is very telling. Has it really taken the CCCBR over three months to wake up to the fact that it is their role to be advising the authorities and representing ringers?

I hope that ringers outwith England treat the 'cautious return to ringing' with extreme caution. Not only may you be breaking the rules where you live, you may place yourself and others at risk.

SALLY THOMAS
New Winton, East Lothian

* * * * *

SIR, – Can I refer you to the "What are we worried about" section of the CCCBR guidance? – specifically "most fatalities being in men over 55–59".

From the latest ONS figures, the data is tabulated by sex/age as below. Total just over 27,000 deaths in males, so the group in which the median (halfway) age falls is the 13,500th death (just below which it is true to say "most fatalities (are) over ..."). Up to the age of 74, the cumulative number of deaths is 8,173, below halfway (i.e. below the median value).

The halfway point is reached well into the 75–84 age group for men. So it is also true to say "most fatalities being in men over 75".

Why did CCCBR choose 55–59?

Age	Male	Cumulative Freq.
Under 1 year	2	2
1–14 years	2	4
15–44 years	325	329
45–64 years	3104	3433
65–74 years	4740	8173
75–84 years	9446	17619
85+ years	9566	27185

DAVID PELHAM
Surbiton, Surrey, KT5

* * * * *

SIR, – Thank you for asking me to respond to David Pelham's letter. He feels that the statement "most fatalities being in men over 55–59" is ambiguous and implies that the guidance should instead refer to men over 75 years old which would, of course, limit the apparently at-risk population of ringers.

The point in the guidance has been rephrased from the sentence "*Sadly, the mortality rates are significant ... with most being in men over 55–59 and in women over 65–69 years old.*" from the review that Dr Kelso and I co-authored and published in *The Ringing World* of 15th May (p.480). While I agree that the initial paper could have been clearer had we said "*most deaths being in ...*" I am not sure that the guidance is really ambiguous at all.

The guidance does not in any way imply a median age, merely that deaths were unusual in patients under these ages given but numbers rose significantly from this age group upwards. The age group divisions and data were taken from the ISARIC COVID-19 study, which examined outcomes in nearly 17,000 patients admitted to UK hospitals (doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.23.20076042>). The ONS data that David references, while less granular than these, are entirely consistent with them.

The important point is that the risk of mortality increases with age and starts to increase significantly in the age groups where there are a lot of active ringers. This includes the large group of "active retired" ringers who have the time and energy for lots of recreational ringing. We must not be tempted to think "this is someone else's risk". If, as we all hope, we are able to get back to ringing soon, it will not help our case with Public Health England and our churches if we seem to ignore or inadvertently misrepresent the risks.

COVID-19 is a very unpleasant disease with a significant mortality rate and there are signs that a proportion of those discharged from critical care having survived COVID-19 infection are left with long-term disability. We still need to take this disease seriously and avoid the temptation to nit-pick while missing the big picture.

DR PHILLIP BARNES

* * * * *

SIR, – I am very concerned that the latest CC advice on resuming ringing appears to be perpetuating the general "one size fits all" approach that has hitherto characterised all the approaches to the COVID-19 emergency – when this "guidance" bears no relation at all to the risk in individual towers.

There is surely a world of difference in infection risk between a jocularly-termed "telephone-kiosk" ringing chamber, with little or no ventilation, and a large open ringing gallery, just as there is between crowded urban streets with large households in small dwellings and rural areas in which isolation is the normal state and encountering other people outside one's own household at all is a matter for conversation ("I met Mrs X outside the village shop today ...").

I have the good fortune to live in a large rural parish in which, so far, there have been no known COVID cases at all – a few isolated cases in surrounding market towns and communities with London commuters, none of which spread beyond those identified. A local ringing band in such a parish consists of the same known individuals, few of whom have any high degree of frequent human contact outside the village community. The risk that COVID presents in such an environment ranks well below that of being involved in a road accident or that of other accidents or illnesses. This does not of course mean that all precautions should not be taken, such as hand sanitising and social distancing. In connection with this, I entirely fail to understand the logic of the CC's apparent retention of the two-metre separation which has been reduced by the government for all other purposes to one metre – especially as adjacent ringers are not facing each other and the "coughing distance" to the other side of the rope circle is generally well over two metres!

Our band feels that to ring under the CC's "guidelines" is simply not worth doing. We feel that our community is entitled to hear the sound that they are normally accustomed to, in rounds, call changes and simple methods, rather than jangling on alternate bells for the sake of compliance with a set of guidelines which seem to make very little sense in our particular circumstances. We continue

to practise on our silenced tower simulator (one bell and screen with Virtual Belfry) with our Rector’s encouragement and full consent, using hand sanitiser before and after, disinfecting door handles, light switches and anything else touched.

All ringing is by law by permission of the incumbent – who may be under instructions or guidance from C of E and diocese, of course. But it does seem to me that the way forward is not by the CC producing “one size fits all” instructions, which may be appropriate for some locations but definitely not for many, but by local assessment and agreement between the local band and the incumbent, having due regard to the actual degree of risk at their particular location. We are not peasants who need to be told from on high what we can and can’t do for our own good. The Exercise – and the Church – should reflect the rapidly changing situation in which the government, rightly, is devolving decisions on this emergency to local level.

Finally, our two biggest problems are, immediately, achieving a consensus in the local band – it’s not a lot of use announcing an intention to ring unless, in a situation of a small number in a local band, all are willing to turn up; and secondly, the elephant in the room, which is recruiting and training – the one aspect in which close proximity of teacher and learner is unavoidable. Our usual group and school presentations and have-a-go sessions have been cancelled and look unlikely for a long time to come; and it is unlikely that all the existing band will return. So maintaining any reasonable ringing even when we are allowed to is going to be an enormous challenge in a sparsely populated rural parish; and, from our perspective, unnecessary restrictions from on high are not much help.

ROD LEBON

Benenden, Kent

* * * * *

SIR, – I have much sympathy with the views expressed by last week’s letter writers. In many cases it seems as though true risk plays second fiddle to commercial interests meaning that some potentially risky things are allowed whilst other, probably less risky activities are not. As someone who lives in Wales I can say that a national approach to unlocking ringing is but a pipe dream as we have no date yet as to when regular church services can resume. I have no doubt that the Welsh Assembly will have something to say on the matter in due course – it always does – and it will be different to whatever happens in England – it always is.

That said, ringers will only return to ringing when they feel it is safe to do so. We can have Perspex screens, tower entry and exit protocols, social distancing and enough hand gel to fill a swimming pool, but if the ringers themselves are still concerned then they won’t turn up. I implore Tower Captains, Ringing Masters and band organisers not to pressure people into coming back to ringing, but rather to listen to their concerns and see if they can be addressed at some point. Ringers will come back when they are ready to.

LYNN SCALES

Presteigne, Powys

* * * * *

SIR, – I want to go ringing again. I want to ring with the Brumdingers, ring at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing next Saturday morning, perhaps ring a quarter for evensong and a peal at Birmingham Cathedral next Monday night. I want all other bellringers to ring again as well, as soon as possible. The importance of ringing for different people ranges from their loyal duty to the church, to being their whole life. Some people are missing it terribly, but just as worryingly, others are realising they can manage without it.

The last Sunday we rang at St Martin’s Birmingham, when lockdown appeared inevitable, our conductor Stephanie Warboys said that there would be no pressure on anyone to come and ring half a dozen bells on a Sunday. I didn’t think I could be bothered to do that. I would wait for us to be back to normal, which would surely only be a few weeks. Now, however, as soon as I can ring for a church service I will, whether it is the ‘Magnificent 7’ at the Bull Ring, or a 3-bell tower. I never imagined I would be looking forward to that so much.

The coronavirus could cost us thousands of ringers. Many bands will only need a couple of people not to return for whatever reason for the whole team to lose critical mass. When I addressed the Central Council AGM dinner nine months ago, I spoke of ‘existential threats’ to ringing from our failure to replace ourselves with young ringers, young teachers and young leaders. Those threats now almost pale into insignificance beside this one. I thought Nicholas Green hit the nail on the head with his letter last week.

So do not assume that in negotiating with the Church in England to allow us to ring alternate bells for service for 15 minutes we have given up on the bigger picture. In the last three weeks we have been navigating a delicate path, with a strategy of positioning ringing so as to get support of the Church and getting ringing off the UK Government’s ‘not permitted’ list. As I write this it remains to be seen whether getting on the radar of Public Health England is a blessing or a curse.

Assuming we have got over this first hurdle, we will start working on the next one, and the next, and the next, all the time hoping we don’t have too big a mountain to climb together when we’ve finished.

I also realise that in dealing with the Church of England we are only dealing with 96% of ringing towers, and at the moment can only offer limited support in other jurisdictions. Ringing is returning in different countries at a rate relative to the rate of the infection and the position ringing holds in the culture of the Church and State. The one aspect of this which is consistent is that rebuilding is likely to be needed everywhere.

SIMON LINFORD
President CCCBR

After the storm, a flood?

SIR, – The resumption of limited ringing, seemingly soon thanks to the progress made by the Central Council’s leadership in reaching the relevant people in the Church of England (“Returning to Ringing”, 26 June, p.623), will no doubt be welcomed by many, not just its currently inactive participants.

As Simon Linford observed in an earlier President’s Blog (15 May, p.496), “No one could claim excessive noise from a church bell tower at the moment!” But accustomed as they’ve now become to an extended period of silence from nearby towers, might those who previously disliked the sound of bells be less tolerant when it returns than they were before it ceased? All the more so, perhaps, because ringing after the loosening of lockdown, although of restricted duration, is initially likely to involve small numbers of bells sounding in unfamiliar and potentially unmusical combinations that enable participants to remain socially distanced.

Might there be a spate of complaints when ringing restarts? Is that possibility being considered by the Council’s Stewardship and Management workgroup? (With its potential for unfortunate abbreviation that I nearly used unthinkingly!)

BRIAN HARRIS

Swindon, Wiltshire

Time to chime?

SIR, – I was much encouraged by the article in the 26th June *RW* about the possibility of returning to ringing now that churches are beginning to open again. However, knowing that people are particularly concerned about social distancing, hygiene etc, I just wonder how many towers have functioning Ellacombe systems? Ours (as it happens) does, and it seems to me that now may be the moment to bring these into use, as a single person can operate the system alone, sounding as many bells as possible, without any risk to health or safety. Maybe others will have comments on this suggestion.

Any Ellacombe users should take care that it is properly set up. The Ellacombe will normally have a lower bar to which the hammer cords are attached, which needs to be pulled down into the ‘play’ position (there should be a slot on either side of the frame for it to fit into). Then the cords need to be tensioned, using the metal key (again which should be present – if not, then the system is technically not in service), so that only a gentle pull will sound the bell. The cords should be pulled and instantly released, so that the hammer does not remain in contact with the bell – if not released, there is a risk of cracking the soundbow. After use, the lower bar should be released to the ‘out of use’ position, and the cords slackened again, so

E-MAILED LETTERS

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that the hammers will drop out of reach of the bell when it is being rung full circle. Clearly, this is not a simple and straightforward process!

As for recording bells for use before Zoomed Sunday services (Tony Kench's letter, p.626), this is another great idea – and I already put this into action a couple of weeks ago for our benefice in rural Oxfordshire.

London N1

JO BARTON

What next?

SIR, – Having read this week's *Ringing World* (and I almost always find something of interest) I turned to the new book by Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay, the very well presented 'Change Ringing on Handbells' and in the introductory section on origins of change ringing I found the stark statement 'no tower, no bells, no bellringing'. I realise that at the moment we are in more of a 'no access to towers' but the result is the same.

Normally the *Church Times* arrives on the same day as the *RW* and this week it has 11 full page articles on 'What Next for the Church' post pandemic. All are challenging and one moreso for us ringers. Bishop John Inge as lead bishop on the cathedrals and church buildings group gives a couple of quotes that might give us cause for concern. Quoting a Worcester Archdeacon who 'yearns for congregations to be released to *be* church rather than be burdened with preserving bricks and mortar'. One major point the bishop makes on the future is 'the downside is that we are likely to see the closure of many churches because of the financial crisis into which the pandemic has thrown them'.

Both of those would lead to the 'no tower, no bells, no ringing' scenario. Now I realise that once the churches are fully open we hope that things will return to normal asap. But it will be a new normal with the current decline in all probability accelerating. I am sure we will be change ringing for many years yet – it will certainly see me out, but if we all think that way then decline is inevitable.

Much work has been done on teaching and recruiting, on restructuring, all necessary but I hope that some thought is being given to some as to how we might improve relationships such that the tower and ringers are seen as integral to the life of the church.

I have said it before but I consider that a tower should have a voice on the PCC, if that is not the case then the ringers can almost be forgotten as a living part of the church. Likewise the tower is a user of money – power, insurance, maintenance – do we help with the money raising?

I am sure that more questions could and should be asked in the 'what next?' for towers and ringers and if we do not ask them and attempt answers then the future might not be as bright for us as we might like.

Canterbury, Kent

AUSTIN DAVIS

Recorded ringing

SIR, – I was interested to read Tony Kench's letter in the 26th June *Ringing World* regarding having bells included in virtual services. In our United Benefice of Long Crendon, with Chearsley and Nether Winchendon, our Vicar has been broadcasting YouTube services since the beginning of lockdown, either from the Vicarage or, later when permitted, from each of the three parishes, and from Easter Sunday (12th April) we have had bells at the start of each service. Although each parish has a peal of bells, there were only recordings available from Long Crendon and Chearsley, and so the sound of Chearsley's bells is used when services are broadcast from Nether Winchendon. At the beginning of service you can hear either rounds, the start of a course of Bristol Royal (recorded as ringing before a wedding) or call changes.

We have had many comments from within the Benefice regarding how good it is to hear the bells again, so if anyone want to see and hear what we have done, it can be reached at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCLxlzswCdN3-AK-Ze4xrMZQ.

ANDREW HASELDINE

Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire

* * * * *

SIR, – I was interested to see the letter from Tony Kench (p.626) about encouraging us to offer bellringing recordings for webcast services. At Wymeswold, we were fortunate that we rang a first quarter peal for one of our ringers a few weeks before lockdown and one of our other ringers, listening outside, recorded it. He offered a short section to the Vicar for our Barrow and Wolds Group Zoom services, which was enthusiastically accepted, and it has been played every Sunday since the second week.

But a real benefit has been that the Zoom-Master announces at 10:28 each Sunday: "I am just going to play the bells before we start our service", so that the entire congregation actually listen to the ringing, rather than it being in the background whilst they gather. The ringing is now an integral part of the worship for everyone, not just the ringers. Who knows, the congregation may even be getting to know the tune of Grandsire Doubles!

MICHAEL HENSHAW

Wymeswold, Leicestershire

Ringing in the rain

SIR, – I sympathise with John Pusey whose quarter was rained off (*What's Hot*, 26 June). We were luckier.

During the second of our two quarters on the lawn it started raining – quite big blobs so it looked serious – but I thought we could tough it out since it was quite warm.

Then I realised that my handbell case was open, and I was far more worried that the push velvet lining and padding behind it getting

soaked than I was about us. Luckily the rain only lasted a few minutes.

The forecast was marginal on the day planned for the third quarter. We hung off cancelling until about an hour before, when it was still raining, but in typical British weather style we had wall to wall sunshine during the time when we would have been ringing! We successfully reconvened a few days later.

Wokingham, Berkshire

JOHN HARRISON

Initial confusion

SIR, – In his article on p.612 (19 June), Chris Kippin reproduced reports of peals rung at Clapham Park and Lambeth on 4th August 1924. The band included CQMS G. Gilbert, RE. For this reader, unfamiliar with abbreviations of military titles, it wasn't immediately apparent where his rank ended and name began.

Swindon, Wiltshire

BRIAN HARRIS

Hidden offence

SIR, – Brian Harris in his letter of 3rd July asks:

"... *might the contents of belfries also become targets of a rapidly emerging form of cultural iconoclasm?*"

Will all those peal boards and peal records with only the names of boys and men suffer from such a fate?

Malvern, Worcestershire

ALISON HODGE

Three threes and nine

SIR, – Three chimes of three and then nine, chimed by the AFCC bell heard near Shrivvenham on a blustery Thursday afternoon at c.5pm, wasn't signifying the death of a nine-year-old ('Shrivvenham's mystery bell', Nicola Roberts & Tony Crabtree, 12 Jun p.576).

More than likely the chime was following the High Church CofE and Roman Catholic sounding called the 'Angelus'. Maybe someone from this part of ecumenical standing can confirm this. Three chimes, pause, three chimes, pause, three chimes: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – then nine chimes: the Trinity.

Prior to lockdown, on our new treble bell at Seacroft (Leeds), this 'Angelus' chime is sounded after the main ringing has finished if the service is that of Holy Communion (it usually is). We hope to resume this chiming as soon as some form of ringing is allowed. So, padres at AFCC – your Angelus could still continue – but hardly any church, I think, still tolls the 'Nine Tailors' as per Dorothy Sayers's famous novel. It would be interesting if this does (or rather, will) still occur at any tower.

Thornor, West Yorkshire

MICHAEL KING

Radio for the soul

SIR, – In 19th June issue of *The Ringing World* (p.603), please may I thank Gilbert and Joan Larter for their kind wishes.

In the same issue, I really enjoyed Revd Malcolm Bowers 'Thought for the Week' and would like to answer his final question. Yes, I do believe that when we meet online for prayer and worship, God is with us.

He also mentions those who are excluded from online services. The following suggestions might help anyone who he or we may know.

Premier Radio Freeview channel 725
Hearts and Hymns Sunday 9am–10am
with Pam Rhodes (usually repeated Sunday 6–7pm).

But not during the pandemic – now instead – Pam Rhodes hosts a type of evening service with different contributors. Monday to Friday just after the 1pm news for approximately 40 minutes, *Altogether Now* with Pam Rhodes – a programme of hymns to lift the spirits at this time. It is quite different from *Hearts and Hymns*.

Revd MICHAEL HAIGHTON
Rugby, Warwickshire

Perception of ringing

SIR, – There have been recent articles in *The Ringing World* concerning the general public's perception of bells being rung. From those articles and through personal enquiries, the general public appears not able to tell the difference between "learners crashing about" and well-struck ringing, as "It all sounds lovely". It seems only those who have some association with ringing notice the difference between good and bad striking. Should there be complaints about ringing from the general public they include: ringing is too long, it is at an unsocial time, or it is too loud; not that the ringing is bad.

I enjoyed the extract from Simon Aves' informative, entertaining and highly readable book, *The History of Change Ringing in Scotland* in issue 5696 (26 June). A point I noted in reading the extract was that complaints from the general public about the bells and ringing centred on "bad ringing"; so bad that either an expert was called in to improve the ringing or ringing was stopped.

Does this show the Scots general public are considerably more discerning than the English when they hear bells being rung, and that they can tell the difference between good and bad ringing? Or perhaps in the 1700s and 1800s the ordinary person not connected with ringing was more musically sensitive than now.

Perhaps Mr Aves might like to offer a view.

HAMILTON WOODS
Sevenoaks Weald, Kent

PLEASE try to use the correct email 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.

Why not to celebrate with a quarter peal Or, How to avoid injury on returning to ringing

We are all really looking forward to the return of ringing, but for most of us this will have been the longest down-time in many years. Medically, the risk to us on returning – far greater than the risk of catching coronavirus – will be of musculoskeletal injuries, particularly of the shoulder. Simple strategies can mitigate that risk, which is why I am writing this article.

The human body is very resource efficient. This means that if a muscle is not frequently used, it becomes smaller and weaker. For example, a plaster put onto a broken limb quickly becomes loose because of atrophy of the muscles inside, which are not getting their usual activity. Through learning to ring, our muscles (particularly shoulder and back) gradually strengthened and got into the habit of repairing themselves rapidly, following the workout they received on a regular basis. In addition, with regular use our tendons (which carry force between muscles and bones, through tendon sheaths) got used to lubricating themselves well.

Excellent technique, not fighting the bell, of course minimises the strength that is needed to perform any action; but over the past three months (unless working out regularly on a dumbbell), the muscles of even the fittest peal ringer will have weakened, and the tendon sheaths will have reduced the amount of lubricant fluid that they create. All of us are at risk of injury on returning to ringing.

The strength of any joint is made up of two components: the ligaments and the muscles. Ligaments are like rubber bands holding the bones together. Generally they are pretty strong, but the total strength of any joint is not just that of the ligaments, but also of the muscles that use the joint, taking up the strain and protecting the ligaments from being over stretched. The risk of returning to ringing without a phased return is that, without the muscle strength to protect them, ligaments will get over stretched or torn (particularly the Shoulder Capsule), causing pain and an injury that is slow to recover. Muscle weakening can happen quite quickly, on the scale of a fortnight or so. The ligaments don't change over time but are rendered vulnerable by the muscle weakening.

The second problem that is likely to happen affects the tendons. Unusual amounts of activity in a tendon which is not sufficiently lubricated causes rubbing and inflammation – a classic Repetition Strain Injury. We used to see them in the wrists of bricklayers returning to work after being laid off for the winter. There are several tendons in the shoulder, but the most frequently injured one is the Supraspinatus Tendon, which is attached to the Shoulder Capsule and frequently rubs under the Acromion (the bony shoulder tip). The outcome is shoulder pain and restriction of movement. Tendon sheaths lose their lubrication more slowly than muscle weakening, over about a month or so of inactivity.

So, how to avoid these injuries?

It all boils down to simple physical training techniques – the gradual and gentle resumption of activity, in a phased way that allows the body time to recover and strengthen itself – just as a marathon runner has a plan for regular, gradually increasing distances to run in training for a race.

In the context of a return to ringing, that means initially ringing for short periods of time (but regularly), and on bells that are not too heavy, whilst taking notice of what are bodies are telling us. The appropriate time off in between episodes of ringing will depend more than anything on the age of the participants. The muscles of 40-year-olds take about twice as long to repair themselves as those of 20 year olds – (what age do people stop playing Premiership football?) – and those of 80 year olds twice as long as 40 year olds.

Why not the celebratory quarter peal? When encouraging middle aged patients to return to physical activity for their health, I would always make a point of advising non-competitive sports. Swivelling to catch a netball, or trying to score that goal, you are much more likely to hurt yourself than if you are jogging, swimming or cycling and only have to compete against your personal best.

For an injury free return to ringing, we need to listen to what our bodies are telling us, particularly when muscles, tendons and ligaments are saying that they need to rest. The issue here is not wanting to let your colleagues down. Although ringing a quarter peal is not strictly competitive, it is a brave person who stands their bell before it comes round, rather than soldiering on to the end, because pain in their shoulder tells them it is at risk of injury. Far better to start by ringing short touches with frequent stops, and planning the QP for a week or two's time.

DAVID POUNCEY
General Practitioner

SECOND-HAND BELLS WANTED

We have a large number of enquiries for single bells for augmentations, for complete rings of bells and small bells for chiming

Please contact:

**The Secretary, Keltek Trust, The Kloof,
Lower Kingsdown Road, Kingsdown, Corsham,
Wiltshire SN13 8BG**

email: bells@keltektrust.org.uk
web site: <http://www.keltektrust.org.uk>

Registered Charity No. 1154107

Registering Small Societies: questions and concerns

As a member of the Central Council, who spoke at the meetings in Edinburgh and Lancaster in support of the proposals to change the structure of the Council, and indeed was delighted to second the proposal of Simon Linford as President at the meeting on London last September, I have been reading with great interest Simon's articles on the Strategic Priorities of the Central Council. I have also read carefully the excellent document sent to Council members in February ('Strategic Priorities 2020 and beyond'), which gives further details of each priority. It is clear that a huge amount of very good work is going on which will undoubtedly be of huge benefit to ringing.

However, having said this, I do have questions and concerns about Simon's latest article on the proposals to introduce a new Central Council membership category of "Registered Small Societies" (3 Jul, p.647).

I appreciate the value of this category of membership for a currently affiliated society whose membership may have fallen so that they no longer reach the membership requirements, and perhaps smaller university societies or others who do not fall within the traditional territorial structure. However, what about those groups who do fall within the current territorial structure? We know, for example, that Worcester Cathedral have requested affiliation to the Central Council (22 May, p.508), which is perhaps where the impetus for this proposal has come from? Surely they are already represented by their own territorial association, who certainly already contribute to the work of the council - one representative of that association has been a workgroup lead for some time. Presumably this proposed category of membership could apply to every tower in the country which is "properly constituted"? Really?

We're considering whether the band from All Saints, Campton might apply? But what would be the benefit? Simon gives reasons such as wanting to support the work of the Council, but one of the main aims of the reformed Council structure was to enable anyone with an appropriate skillset, whether or not an elected member of the Council, to make a contribution, as many already are doing - the membership of workgroups is by no means confined to council members. Another reason given is to be able to benefit from safeguarding guidance and support. Can we not do that already? Very clear and comprehensive guidance is readily available to anyone via the Council website, with a direct email address to the Council's Safeguarding Officers. We could enjoy other benefits of council membership such as sending someone to speak at Council meetings. The meeting is an open meeting, centred around a wider programme of events, and it is already the case that anyone can attend. The representatives of the Bedfordshire Association (of whom I am one) already communicate appropriate matters

for discussion in advance to our membership, and reflect their views at Council meetings. If non-council members wish to raise an issue, they already have the option of asking their representatives to speak on their behalf or watching the live stream of the meeting and commenting on social media if they wish to do so, which would be picked up by delegates at the meeting.

The proposal to introduce the "Registered Small Societies" category of membership seems to have appeared suddenly from nowhere. I cannot see this specifically mentioned anywhere in the strategic priorities already in the public domain. In the document 'Strategic Priorities 2020 and beyond' under Strategic Priority 2 (That no ringer should hit a barrier to their own progress), one of the current issues listed is that towers and territorial associations are struggling to fulfil the aspirations of many ringers. This is certainly the case in many areas and rightly needs to be addressed. However, is the way forward really to enable towers to declare UDI, as might be perceived to be the case if this proposal is passed? Instead, should we not be finding ways to encourage successful towers to positively engage with local associations and assist struggling towers within the wider local area?

This proposal raises a lot of questions. It has implications which need to be thought through carefully and debated properly. Although the views of existing affiliated societies are sought, these need to be received by 19th July, which does not allow much time (particularly at the moment, when ringers cannot meet easily) for representative responses. It is the intention to put the proposal to the Council's meeting in September, which will be held wholly or largely virtually. As Simon himself writes on the Council website, "even the best virtual platform will impose some constraints, so we are also planning how best to conduct our formal business. A key element of our preparation will be to ensure that business is limited to what is essential and that any concerns or issues raised by Council Members are addressed in advance, as both debate and voting will be more difficult than in a normal setting."

This is not essential business, and given the timescale and importance of this issue, which is a fundamental change, I would urge that this should not be rushed through and that any discussion and voting should be delayed until the Council is able to meet as normal and we can debate properly. In the meantime, Simon, the Executive and workgroups have plenty of excellent initiatives to keep them busy!

Campton, Bedfordshire LINDA GARTON

Clyde Whittaker will reply in next week's issue to these points and others received via the consultation process, which closes on Sunday 19th July. SmallSocieties@cccbr.org.uk

Remembering Derek Ogden 1933–1963



Saturday June 27th marked the 50th anniversary of a record peal of 110 Spliced Surprise Maximus rung at Ashton-under-Lyne for the Lancashire Association. The peal surpassed the peal record of 105-spliced rung the previous week at Leicester Cathedral. The peal at Leicester Cathedral was conducted by Neil Bennett and at Ashton by John H Fielden. Both, together with Derek Ogden, were the composers for the peals.

Derek started to ring in April 1946 at St Peter's Ashton-under-Lyne. He was taught by Walter Wolstencroft and began what was to be an outstanding but all-too-short ringing career. Such was Derek's ability and personality that he was elected Ringing Master at St Peter's, Ashton while still only 15 years of age. During the next 10 years he built up a Surprise Major band at St Peter's.

Ringing for Derek lapsed for two years while he did his National Service at the SHAPE Headquarters in Fontainebleau where his fluency in French gained him the post of interpreter. On returning to life in Manchester he was immediately re-elected chairman of the Manchester Branch of the Lancashire Association.

From 1959 onwards Derek spent a great deal of his time composing peals of spliced on eight, ten and twelve bells. This proved to be the catalyst for a band in the Manchester area capable of ringing these methods. The climax was the peal of 110 methods at Ashton.

Studying Chemistry at Manchester University from 1950 to 1953, Derek played a prominent part in the early development of the University Guild. He was made president of the Guild in 1960.

FRANK OSBALDISTON
Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire

Lancashire Association of Change Ringers
St Michael and All Angels, Ashton-under-Lyne
Saturday June 27th 1970 in 3hrs 30mins
Basil Jones (1) Richard S. Starkie (2) Frank
Osbaldiston (3) John H. Fielden (4) (cond.)
C. Kenneth Lewis (5) Bernard F. L. Groves (6)
Derek Butterworth (7) Cyril Crossthwaite (8)
Neil Bennett (9) Robert B. Smith (10)
Brian Harris (11) Jeffrey Brannon (12)
This is the greatest number of methods yet
rung in a peal on 12 bells

(Ref: RW: October 18th 1963 p.691

RW: July 31st 1970 p.599

RW: September 4th 1970 p.697)

CC President's Blog

Last Friday was definitely a low point. There was much swearing in Moseley, Worcester and Wrotham when an ever-so-polite email dropped in from the Church of England Recovery Group asking us not to ring that Sunday after all. Then my computer crashed just to add to the misery. The next morning, we had a call with Mark and Brendan but it was clear that they wanted us to change our guidance and wait a bit longer.

I am not sure what percentage of churches did actually hold services in England on Super Sunday. There weren't many in my home Diocese of Birmingham and I have heard of some particularly rural areas where there is no sign of churches opening for some time. Across the world the picture varies – ANZAB reporting 20 out of 64 towers open again, while in North America I understand a little ringing has happened at Orleans, Honolulu and Kent School. The Channel Islands and Isle of Man are relishing their Coronavirus-free isolation!

The prospect of ringing three for services caused Ann Davies to recall the words of the Serbian Orthodox priest in charge of the ring of three at Bournville in Birmingham when three ringers (suspects include Messrs Pickford and Jones) asked if they could have 'a little tinkle'. The custodian of the ultra-unforgettable tower said "we ring for ze purpose and not for ze tinkle!!"

As work starts on the next stage of guidance it is difficult to see how things are going to change materially without infection levels dropping. However there are lots of factors to consider, including that not all ringing environments are the same. We're also getting a group together representing prolific peal organisers to pool our thoughts on how we can move towards ringing's longer form.

Now to some good news. The Churches Conservation Trust has launched its 'Champing' offer – 20% discount for ringers booking before 31st July (use the discount code BELLS20). Champing is like glamping but kipping down inside one of their churches for a slightly surreal night's sleep. Note that most of these churches do not come with showers so those booking for more than a few days will be thanked for not going within 2m of anyone else! Team Linford has booked to stay in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Warminghurst so we can visit Charlie's adopted sloth, Flash, at Drusillas Wildlife Park.

If you are looking for more YouTube viewing after watching all 40 entries in the June YouTube competition, Steve Farmer has put together a superb series of videos on how to use a simulator. Search YouTube for "Practical Simulator Sessions" and you will find these, excellently produced in his garage (which to be honest needs a good lockdown clearance ...).

Chris Ridley has been confirmed as the new leader of the Historical & Archive Workgroup. Chris has had a long association with the Council Library and other initiatives and is looking forward to developing this Workgroup so that our history and archives are able to inform and support other areas of the Council's work. For instance, it has already been shown that the study of genealogy can get descendants of ringers wanting to learn and follow in ancestors' footsteps.

The first peal on Ringing Room has been rung. Is it surprising that it has taken so long, or that it has been done at all? I cannot say too much as I was in it, and this is not a forum for me to blow my own trumpet. Oh go on, maybe just a bit – Parp parp!

We have launched a consultation on 'Registered Smaller Societies' which is a proposed change to the Council Rules to enable bell ringing societies that don't have the 75 members needed for full affiliation, but which want to be part of the Council. Not all ringers and ringing



are covered by territorial societies, and to be truly representative the Council should embrace smaller emerging groups. More details can be found in the Governance section of the website.

Booking some more holidays. Sign of the times that when we would have been heading off to the Far East for a tour of Vietnam and Thailand, we have booked a boat on the Llangollen Canal and made sure that it has three decent handbell chairs. Twin holiday focus of Latin vocab and Kent Minor.

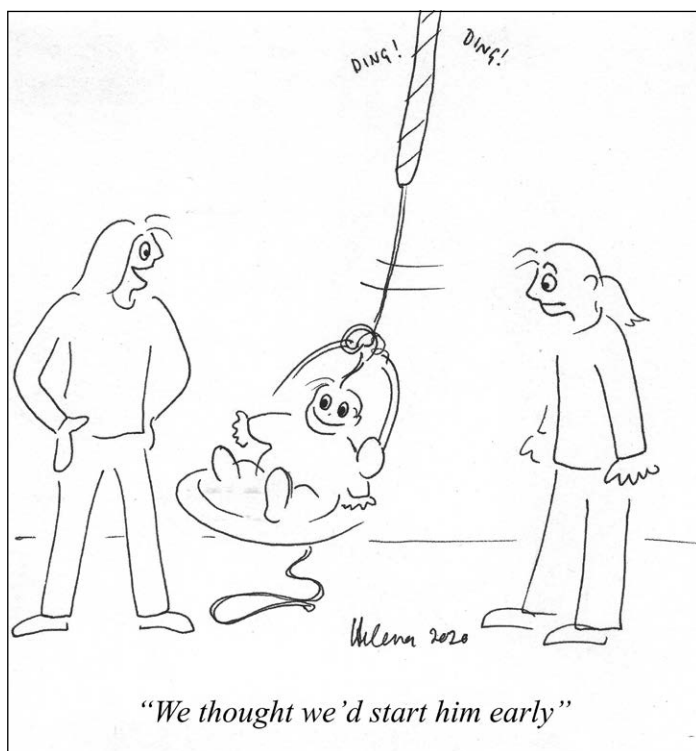
Matt Lawrence from Lilleshall has joined V&L and taken on a "Recruitment and Retention" brief. Matt masterminded the R&R workshop at the ART Conference on behalf of V&L. There is also a new Facebook group called Bell Ringing Recruitment and Retention – some people have actually managed to recruit people into ringing via Ringing Room and will be looking forward to converting them into tower bell ringers. Just shows what's possible if you try.

The second of my three favourite ringing days of the year didn't happen, following on from the 12 bell final. The RWNVC would have seen hundreds of young ringers gather in York for this annual festival of youthful skill and coloured team shirts but alas we will need to wait another year.

Patrick Deakin has started the latest of his Facebook competitions where people vote for their favourite ring of bells in a particular category, starting off with 32 and deciding each round on a knock out basis. Following victories for York in the Heavyweight 12 bout, and Inveraray in the Cruiserweight 10 bout, he is now pitching ton-plus eights against each other in the Super Middleweight category. Will it be one of the Somerset classics (i.e. Chewton Mendip) or a young pretender? Watch the drama unfold over coming weeks.

Finally some sad news. The Black Bull at Frosterley, home to a ring of 12 with a tenor of 0-2-21 by Matthew Higby, has closed permanently. Hopefully a new home will be found for the bells, on which seven peals have been rung (but not one by me so I am still keen).

SIMON LINFORD



Please use *The Ringing World's*

BellBoard

for submitting and browsing
ringing records online & confirming performances
for print publication in the magazine

www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk

Ringling Room, handbells and cake: Youth teams in lockdown

We asked the RWNYC teams to let us know what they've been up to during lockdown. Overleaf, we hear about some of this year's 'graduates', for whom 2020 would have been their last contest

Salisbury Diocesan Guild Young Ringers

Hilary Child, with contributions from William Bishop and Ben van Alstede

We had our last “real life” practice on 14th March, little realising that more than three months later we would still not be able to meet. For the first five or six weeks we enjoyed emailed bellringing quizzes, but then Annabel and William suggested that they create a Kahoot quiz to be conducted via Zoom. The evening was well-supported and at the end some people suggested that we try some virtual ringing using Ringing Room. At the time of writing, we have had five Friday evening practices and have rung Call Changes on 6, 8 and 10 as well as lots of Plain Hunt on 5 and plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles. Everyone has found it a challenge, but it *has* had the positive effect of making people count their places dutifully. In fact Pippa, who had never attempted Plain Hunt before, has now mastered it on five. She declared that she could “only do it by counting places” and was slightly surprised when everyone cheered!

“Definitely had a lot of fun doing the Kahoot and seeing everyone again”

“The first young ringers’ practice had a few glitches, with lots of people having technical issues, and the slight issue that we hadn’t rung for over two months! But once we got our heads around it, we quickly picked up how Ringing Room worked and were soon moving on to the more interesting bits of ringing.”

“It went very well and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Everyone was fantastic at it, just a few mishaps in a few places!”

“While we can’t ring, Ringing Room is a great option for us to keep our brains active and keep in contact with all the young ringers and their parents.”

Brumdingers

Charlie Linford

A few years ago on a promotion for Brumdingers, we asked the Brumdingers what they loved about Brumdingers and we got some, let’s say, entertaining results. (A lot was about food.) We’ll start with Sara Paulson who said “it’s fun” and a few years later, it still is fun. We’re having a lot of fun on Zoom meetings and Ringing Room. It is all very entertaining when someone presses Bob repeatedly and no one knows who it is. But, in the grand scheme of where we are, it is a lot of fun.

Caoimhe (read, cover, write, check, repeat) said, “you can’t rush perfection”. This does sound like she read something from an Oprah Winfrey website and repeated it to my dad because it doesn’t have anything to do with ringing, but let’s move on.



Brumdingers group picture

I said “it is the highlight of the week” and it still is the highlight(s). As it is so unique, you can’t miss it and the people you meet there are so much fun to be around.

James (a boy of few words) said nothing. And let’s be real, he wouldn’t say anything now.

And finally, Robbie said how he loved the caramel wafers and I think that is something we can all get behind.

Kids ringing is so cool and the people you meet are incredible. We are the future.

Channel Islands Pirates

Helen McGregor

The Channel Islands have had different COVID regulations from the UK and different regulations between Jersey on the one hand and Guernsey & Alderney on the other. We have all been locked down but restrictions have been easing, and most recently Guernsey (now COVID-free) and Alderney (always been COVID-free) have even been permitted to be back ringing in the tower.

Throughout it all though, handbells have seen a definite spike! Hannah Read (Jsy), William Read (Jsy) and Aaron Hallett (Ay) have all scored their first handbell quarter. On Guernsey, although their attendance on ringingroom.com has been most diligent, Joseph Blake and Henry Wood are both delighted to be back up the tower, scoring their 50th quarter peal and first of Grandsire Doubles respectively in June.

2020 was destined to be the very first time the Channel Islands Pirates entered the RWNYC; we are now looking forward to 2021 instead!

Surrey Strikers

Caroline Prescott

York 2020 would have been the first time in the four years we have entered the National Youth Contest where we had a band selected and ready to go! We have a mixed group of four experienced ringers and four less experienced, but they support each other well.

Quite quickly after lockdown we established contact with the group on a social internet forum, and this allowed conversations which normally started with, “When can we get back to ringing?!” Getting to know each other via the online platforms of Ringing Room and Discord has been a silver lining of lockdown. They have very much been organising this themselves as they quite quickly left me behind! They are keen for new members so do get in touch.

Emoji quizzes, piano recitals and “Guess the Tower” competitions have all featured on the social group, but everyone is starting to deflate a little bit and will be very ready to meet once we can get together as a group.



A tower made by Fred Mills from Lego, which took him a week to make. If only putting in a ring of bells was that easy!

The Bath & Wells Young Ringers

A few snippets collected by Jan Wyatt, Team Leader

“I’ve tried Ringing Room, and I met a whole new bunch of (largely) young ringers on Discord so that’s been really fun. I did find Ringing Room quite difficult but I’m a bit more used to it now. We’ve been starting to ring handbells as a family (completely new to both me and my sister). Fortunately I’m not too old for next year’s competition! I’ll be doing my second year of college next September. A friend has built a mini ring (admittedly for someone else) but that’s in our garage at the moment so that is another interest. I hope to go to next year’s RWNYC.”

One of our young ringers and the rest of his family went down with COVID-19. His mum was working on the intensive care ward and caught it. He was in hospital for a bit but is now at home and is recovered.

At Wrington they are getting ready for ringing for the first service on the 12th July, with three of our young ringers participating – it will be the Treble, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th. They say they don’t know how musical it will be but at least they will be ringing again.

Kent Young Ringers

Jennifer Thomas

During lockdown Kent Young Ringers have had a couple of sessions in Ringing Room, but we have also made a great start with focused practices with our MINI-Ringers group and a couple of older helpers. We have a couple of activities up our sleeve to replace our annual summer event. Two Young Ringers rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minimus on real handbells in their separate homes using “Messenger” to communicate, and Amber rang her first peal of P B Minor with Dan Jarvis and Tom Hinks at 2m distancing in a meadow outside Westerham.

(see also pp. 690–1 for a reflection on the last five years of Kent Young Ringers)

ODG Youth Team

Jenny Page

It goes without saying how disappointed we all are not to be defending the trophy in York, though it would not have been with quite the same team as we had said goodbye to Josh and Jake. We were looking forward to catching up with Jake’s news as he would have been in York as the competition photographer. We have welcomed new members into the squad and before lockdown continued to practice each month. The focuses of the practice are always listening, striking and chatting over cake.

Liverpool was the first competition where the distance to travel meant we needed an overnight stay. This additional time for the team to get to know each other has helped in lockdown. Dougie, our conductor in 2019, has organised monthly zoom calls, as he discusses below.

I have been really pleased to hear how many of the squad have been busy ringing online, mainly using Ringing Room, some on Handbell Stadium, with their local towers and groups of friends. This, without doubt, is helping to keep the interest in ringing and of course does not require any travel. With the relaxation of the lockdown handbells are also becoming part of the mix.

We are looking forward to getting everyone back together although we say goodbye to Charlie, Alice, Ben, Izzy and Dougie. The last three were in the 2019 band. At the moment all of them are thinking

of university. Destinations are, of course, not yet confirmed but Cambridge does seem to be popular; perhaps Oxford is just too close to home!

Young Ringing in a COVID world

Doug Vale

After recent global events, it became apparent that it would not be possible for the Oxford Guild Youth Team to hold its regular practices. After a month or so of inactivity, a plan was hatched to begin regular Zoom meetings in place of our practices, the idea was well received and our first online meeting was held in late April. The inaugural online meet-up was a games night, where we used multiplayer games that already existed online to play and have a laugh with each other. This really helped to break the ice between the team members, especially for the younger ones to meet the older members. There was definitely an element of “learning the technology” as it was the first time for some but after we got settled it was a most enjoyable meeting.

After the success of the first meeting, it was unanimously decided to continue to hold meetings every month where we have managed to go from singing Horrible Histories Karaoke to reminiscing our favourite funny school memories and stories. Our meetings are generally well attended which was a really nice thing, allowing us to have an extremely wide selection of conversations which has turned into a healthy debate on a few occasions, particularly when we start discussing music. Hopefully, these meetings will continue until we can begin our in-person practices again, where we can actually see each other as opposed to a camera and a computer screen.

Worcester Cathedral Young Ringers

Our Lockdown Get Togethers

William Regan and Diane Awkati

We are enormously proud of our young ringers. They are a dedicated and determined bunch of youngsters and throughout lockdown many of them have been able to virtually come together weekly with an amazing team spirit. We have had some crazy fun chats and some very sensible discussions, covering all sorts of topics. We have shared our ringing experiences, had some theory lessons and learned to virtually ring together in Ringing Room. As you would expect from such a great team, they all wanted to contribute to this article, so their comments are all included below.

The online young ringers practices have been an astounding success. The use of Ringing Room has allowed us to ring in a completely unique way, whilst keeping a light-hearted approach with the youngsters. Everyone has progressed in their own way. These sessions were the first time any of us had ever rung online, and they have leapt to the challenge and proven themselves to be better than I could’ve imagined. We’ve focused on plain hunt, Plain Bob and Call Changes on six and eight, however we usually end the sessions with a burst of Rounds and Calls on 10 or 12, something most of them can’t do at their home tower!

There is no doubt that the Ringing Room practices have enhanced everyone’s skills and we all look forward to ringing church bells together again as soon as we can.

Hattie and Anna

During lockdown, we have found the Ringing Room to be an invaluable resource. Not only has it enabled us to communicate with other youth ringers, but we find it an enormous help with our method theory, and will continue to use it even when practical ringing resumes. Thank you for taking the time to organise the group sessions, we really appreciate it.

Sam

Although not being able to ring properly at the moment is sad, being able to use Ringing Room has been fun. I like to be able to see all the ringers on the chatroom. I have also rung with Mark and Craig from Worcester Cathedral. Craig named the Ringing Room tower ‘The Cathedral Minster of Sir Sam’, it made me so happy.

Rachel

We meet each other every Saturday morning with Hangouts; it’s great to be able to ring on Ringing Room. It’s nice to be able to talk more as



Jenny Page (left) and Colin Newman (right) with members of the team

the Hangouts call usually lasts longer than the usual practice at St Martin's Cornmarket.

Rowan

Being able to see and talk to everyone using Google Hangouts since the beginning of lockdown has been brilliant. It has been amazing to be able to use Ringing Room to ring together despite the distances between us geographically. It's also great to see the Ringing Room project grow and evolve as more features are added and problems fixed.

Kelise

We've been using Ringing Room and Google Hangouts recently, it is so good to be together. We have still been incorporating ringing into our home life by setting challenges – we set a challenge to create something ringing related over a week. I made a Grandsire Triples poster learning resource and others made sewn, crocheted, decoupage and motorised bells which turned out great.

Ioan

I have enjoyed the young ringers practices as they have given me a chance to socialise with other young ringers. I think the practices are good because they allow us to practise our ringing in a new and unique manner.

Alice

Lockdown has been weird. I have enjoyed using Ringing Room on a Saturday morning with the Worcester team, however I cannot wait to get back to a tower.



*Learning Plain Bob Minor in hand (l-r):
Cordelia Thompson, Holley Wakeling
and Peter Jasper*

Lizzy

I like meeting on a Saturday morning with friends on Hangouts, having fun and ringing on Ringing Room. I have learned how to Plain Hunt which is really good. But, what I don't like is that there are NO ROPES! And the cakes are only virtual – I need to invent a teleporter!

Bucks & Berks Young Ringers

Peter Jasper

The last "normal" practice for the Bucks and Berks Young Ringers was on 8th March at Shiplake with ringing ranging from called changes to Surprise. Hopes were high as the practice had seen a good first run-through of "the touch" – the test piece that we were hoping to use in the Ringing World National

Youth Contest. It was excellent to see several new ringers join with the practices and we were very much looking forward to starting properly the organising of the team for July. However, it was not to be and tower bell ringing stopped shortly afterwards.

The Bucks and Berks Young Ringers are very fortunate in that we do not have any of our members turning 18 this year so all of our members will be able to ring in the 2021 competition. The Bucks and Berks Alumni who turned 18 last year have continued ringing, becoming members of the local bands as far afield as Warwick and Toronto!

However, the lockdown did not mean the end of ringing for our current members, with some of our ringers organising their own Ringing Room practices to keep ringing "ticking over". When the government allowed groups to meet up outdoors in gardens, practices started being organised using a borrowed set of handbells which provided new challenges of learning the "2-3 pattern" and "opposites" even if some attempts had to be cut short as a rain shower caused everybody to dive for cover to avoid getting soaked! After a while, even the problems of ropesight in a "socially distanced" circle had been overcome and we've rung some reasonable plain hunt and Plain Bob Minor.

Maybe there will be a new handbell category for us to enter in the RWNVC 2021? The Bucks and Berks Young Ringers will be ready for it!

This year's graduates

Gloucester and Bristol

Ian Bucknell, Team Leader

We have three ringers for whom the 2020 RWNVC would have been their last. They are all intending to go on to university and hope to achieve 'A' grades to allow them to go to their first choices. Florence has a conditional offer from Cambridge University and Alistair and Yuhan both have offers from Oxford University.

Florence Lazenby

Florence is from a ringing family and as well as being a member of the G & B, she is an active member of the Welsh Colleges Society of Change Ringers. She is yet to ring a peal but has rung nearly 50 quarter peals. Most of Florence's ringing has been on six, but she has become more confident on eight by ringing with the Cirencester band and through being a member of the G & B Youth Team as well as the Welsh Colleges. A strong and bubbly personality means that you always know when Florence is about!

Yuhan Jiang

Yuhan is the first member of her family to become a ringer. She rang her first peal in May 2019 and since then has rung peals of 4-spliced and Bristol as well as one on the treble to 23-spliced surprise minor in Bristol earlier this year. A product of the "Let's Ring" production line, she has rung many quarter peals since her first in July 2018. She has

crammed a lot into her short ringing career and is on the fast track for ringing success. Her positive and bubbly personality and her passion for ringing means that she is very popular in any team she rings in.

Alistair White-Horne

Alistair is the youngest son of Catherine White-Horne, who is the inspiration of the "Let's Ring" group, and his early ringing career has been guided by John Cornock of Stone. He is the conductor of the 2020 G & B Youth Team and up until the lockdown was doing a fantastic job helping to build the team and guiding them through several G & B Youth Team quarter peals which we were ringing by way of a serious attempt at doing well in this year's RWNVC. He is a quiet but confident conductor and very popular with all members of the G & B Youth Team – adults and youngsters alike. He has been ringing for four years and has rung 13 peals and conducted four. His ringing ability has already been recognised by the peal ringers of the G & B and he has a great future ahead of him as he is always ready to listen and learn from more experienced ringers.

Kent Young Ringers

Jennifer Thomas, Team Leader

This year would have been the last RWNVC for our two treble ringers, Isabel Hopper and Lucy Harvey. In Liverpool last year, Lucy was particularly commended for her treble ringing, and our visit to the city was especially

interesting for Isabel as Giles Gilbert Scott, designer of Liverpool Cathedral, was her great, great grandfather's uncle, and she was able to pose for photos, including in front of the red telephone box, also designed by him.

Isabel writes:

"I started ringing in Bredgar, but my ringing improved a lot when I joined KYR at SEECON in 2017, even though that was a surprisingly dramatic day! (One of our team sustained a serious break to her wrist just after ringing our test piece.) I love helping at the tower where I learnt to ring, and it has inspired me to continue with teaching as a career. I've just got a job as a speech and language teaching assistant. I will miss ringing with everyone, but at least we went out on a high!"

Lucy writes:

"I first learnt to ring at the beginning of 2018. It wasn't of my own accord, in fact I had to be persuaded to go along to my first practice by my mum (who wanted to learn to ring herself but was too scared to go on her own)! It very quickly became something I enjoyed, and, with some gentle encouragement, I started attending practices with the Kent Young Ringers, which resulted in my being thrown in at the deep end by entering our district striking competition in the Kent team later that year, which we won miraculously despite a last minute drop out from our team captain. Despite my early

reservations about learning to ring, it has been a great experience; in particular last year's RWNYC in Liverpool, where we took home the second-place trophy. Seeing as we will be unable to reclaim (or lose!) that title this year due to the coronavirus, this earlier success at least means I will be leaving the KYR on a high note. I hope to study Aerospace Engineering at university later this year, and hopefully I can continue ringing alongside my studies so that, when I go back to ring at my home tower in the holidays, I won't have forgotten everything!"

Oxford DG

Doug Vale, Graduate

As a team, we were quite sad that the RWNYC had to be cancelled as it is an absolute highlight of our ringing calendar but we completely understood that to go ahead with an event like that in the current global climate would not be appropriate nor acceptable. It was especially sad for a select group of the team who had joined us since the RWNYC in Liverpool and were very much looking forward to going to the 2020 contest in York, but now have missed that opportunity and will be too old to take part in future RWNYC's. But, without any doubt, they will be wherever the RWNYC takes them to cheer on the Oxford Guild Youth Team for years to come.

On a personal note, I would just like to say a massive thank you to anyone who has played a part in helping the ODG Youth Team, particularly to Jenny Page and Colin Newman who have been instrumental in the success and enjoyment the team has had over the last year. I have to say that I have absolutely loved being a member of the team for the last few years. Conducting the team to victory in Liverpool was an absolute highlight and I am so unbelievably proud of all that we have achieved.

It makes me rather sad to have to leave the team but I know that it's in strong hands for the future and I wish them the best luck for the next challenge.

Coventry Spires

Annie Hall, Team Leader

Two of the original team members were due to ring in the competition in York this year for the last time. Albert Williams and Ruby Selby were only 12 in our first year entering the competition and have been great supporters ever since. I asked them to summarise their memories of the competition and Albert submitted the following:

"I've been lucky enough to have been in the Youth Team since it started almost 6 years ago. In that time I've thoroughly enjoyed the practices and trips we've gone on. Coming from a six bell tower, it's been nice to have a go at more complex methods on higher numbers of bells, but in a laid back and fun environment. I've probably picked up as many tips from the young ringers as the older ones! It's a real shame that the RWNYC was cancelled this year; the competition is always a good day out, striking a balance between ringing and seeing 'the sites'. Museums, carillons, and street signs relevant to songs – we've done the lot! It's nice to see so many other young ringers around as we all descend on a city in our various brightly coloured T-shirts.

"Highlights have to be Chris Mew's bus tour through London, and more recently our trip on the Mersey Ferry. Often we take the train as a group and celebrate the day with a picnic or taking one of the Brumdingers 'hostage'. Sadly this would have been my last year at

the competition, so I'd like to think all of those who have been part of the Coventry Spires and made it such a joyful experience, and would encourage any young ringers who may be considering to join in to give it a go!"

In total 17 young people have represented the Guild in our teams over the years, and we are very proud that one of our members, Estella Haynes, has gone on to be one of the judges.

Sussex Young Ringers

Anne Franklin, Team Leader

RWNYC 2020 would have been the 'graduation' ceremony for six of our band and my last competition as Team Leader, having organised the Sussex team since the first competition in 2011.

As always, our youngsters are a team to be proud of. They are a great bunch to ring with and socialise with. Their chatter in the back of my car is enlightening! We are all hugely disappointed not to be going to York but to mark the occasion we are having our own Ringing Room striking competition on 4th July with our 'graduates and our newest recruits. Any YP gathering is incomplete without cake, so our event will also include a cake competition ... beware judges!

So who are our 'Graduates'?

Molly has spent the last few months making masks for her family and friends and sewing scrubs for local care homes and the hospital in Haywards Heath. It is great that she has been doing something productive and useful in these strange times. Molly hasn't done a lot of online ringing as she has found it much harder than being in the tower! Molly's first RWNYC competition will always be one to remember as she was in the winning band and since then has gone on to make ringing friends across the country. In September she will be heading off to Bath Spa University to study Fashion Design and hopes to in fit some ringing in when she can.

Alex has spent Lockdown running and watching TV! He has done a bit of Ringing Room ringing but says it doesn't compare to actual ringing. His memories of RWNYC are of long, exciting, adventurous days in London 2016 and Liverpool 2019, being given the opportunity to ring at amazing towers such as Liverpool Cathedral, St Mary-le-Bow and many others, and making lots of friends. His plans for September are to take a gap year in which plenty of ringing will be done and to travel to New Zealand before doing physics at uni next year.

For **Josephine** RWNYC 2020 would have been her first ... and only competition! She has survived the last few months by sewing, knitting and reading. A little bit of Ringing Room practice has been done but her ringing highlight was watching the 'Not the 12 bell competition' with Rachel and Molly ... socially distanced of course! In September she is off to Birmingham to complete a Law Degree and she has promised she will be a regular attender at the Edgbaston practice.

Lysbeth, always the life and soul of the party, is one of the longest serving Sussex Young Ringers. She is renowned for her chocolate chip cookies and always makes sure there are enough for everyone. Ringing hasn't featured in Lysbeth's lockdown but we have persuaded her to come along to recent online practices. A gap year beckons for Lysbeth in September before she returns to take up a career in nursing.

Rachel, our RWNYC Team Leader since 2016, has been busy practising her Bristol Max in Ringing Room during lockdown ready for when she heads off to Birmingham in September to study for a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. Luckily Rachel has continued to earn her keep over the last few months serving the lovely people of Hurstpierpoint with their fish and chips!

Josh has been a stalwart of the Sussex team in recent years and we will certainly remember his ability to eat cake ... and more cake, especially the legendary Mince-meat Slice. During lockdown he has created a new repertoire on the piano and made the most of being able to have a lie in. In September he is off to Bristol to study Music and I am sure that will include ringing.



2019, the team and supporters with the Famous Four in Liverpool

My congratulations, best wishes and thanks go to each of them for having made my job as Team Leader so enjoyable and rewarding.

Lysbeth Middleton and Rachel Mahoney, Graduates

After seven years ringing together, five RWNYS and more cake than we'd care to admit, we are finally leaving the world of youth ringing. We've both enjoyed the time immensely and would like to share our experience to inspire and support other young ringers as they enter our community of ringing.

Our first year at RWNYS was in 2015 in Oxford and was one of our all-time favourite competitions. Being young and inexperienced we had not yet become aware of the fact ringing competitions give you nerves, and with the nerves comes numerous trips to the toilet. Pro tip: always relieve yourself prior to test pieces. Having never competed before, we gained confidence by having a solid team around us who were more worried about having a good day and where the next ice-cream would come from, rather than our result. One of our personal highlights was the treasure hunt across the beautiful city, a place we wouldn't have properly visited if it weren't for ringing. Being able to ring in some of the towers around Oxford was a fantastic opportunity and one we thoroughly enjoyed.

However, being able to ring with other young ringers from across the UK was the most enjoyable part of all our competitions (apart from the cake!) and is what we think RWNYS is really about. Coming from ringing families, we have both been welcomed into the ringing world with open arms. We hope this welcoming embrace will continue throughout future generations to encourage people of all backgrounds into our art.

Since 2015 we've visited Liverpool, Birmingham and London with the RWNYS, which included London 2018 where not only did we win, but we also featured in the Blue Peter challenge along with other young ringers from different teams. Although we have these personal achievements, we've been able to watch and appreciate improvement and evolution across the board, seeing teams start up and reap the rewards of their hard work. One of the best feelings when it comes to being part of a team is watching the progression as a group and even as an individual over the course of the years. We both feel like we've grown in confidence both socially and in our ringing ability, and this will benefit us when it comes to taking on the next steps of our lives.

As young women, it is our duty to enhance the experience of other young female ringers in order to encourage the involvement of female talent in future surprise major bands. Our aim is that as we continue with our ringing careers, we will introduce and encourage more young women into ringing, supporting them to do well and push themselves into the more male dominated ringing circles.

Now, what have we both done during our time in lockdown? A LOT of exercise and quite a bit of baking. However, we've also taken part in numerous practices and sessions on Ringing Room. At the start of June, Sussex Young

Ringers held a "get together" on zoom and a young ringers practice, where we managed to ring methods such as Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major. The shock on our faces when we heard Andrew Meyer's voice for the first time in months and how it had broken even more genuinely was a highlight! We are even holding a mini "youth contest" on the 4th July to mark when RWNYS 2020 would have been, which will potentially be more competitive than the real thing.

Both of us are gutted that we won't be able to participate in our last competition this year and we were both excited to explore the city of York and of course, have the opportunity to ring at York Minster. Despite this, we are so lucky to take away so many incredible memories all because of RWNYS. We've loved making progress with our ringing and we've made so many friends from all across the country that will be friends for life, but in front of that, we are so grateful that the world of youth ringing is given this opportunity of an event that really is the highlight of the year.

Reflections on ringing by Josh Hutchinson

RWNYS has always been one of the highlights of my ringing year. You can't beat it! I have made many fond memories ringing with Sussex since my first competition in 2016. Here is a short list ...

1. London 2016: Realising that "pull hard" at Bow really does mean you have to pull hard.

2. Birmingham 2017: When we couldn't start our test piece because Andrew Alford had to take off his trousers. (Luckily, these were trousers that zip off and turn into shorts!)

3. London 2018: Winning the Whitechapel Trophy; it's a feeling you don't forget. 2018 was also my first 'RWNYS weekend', which involved Simon Edwards dragging us up Hampstead Heath the following day, with all our luggage, in 31 degree heat ... all for a quarter peal.

4: Liverpool 2019: Ringing at Liverpool Cathedral was great, but the fish and chips afterwards were absolutely incredible.

During lockdown I have been able to spend some significant time sat at the piano getting into some new repertoire. Music is my second passion, and, in the past, I have sometimes let ringing take over too much. After lockdown, I will certainly reassess how I balance my time, although I am of course looking forward to getting back to ringing. My favourite thing about ringing is the feeling you get when you reach 'that's all' after a touch, quarter or peal and you know anyone outside would have (hopefully) enjoyed listening. I believe this comes from my nature as a musician – striking is the most important thing, for me (and probably should be for everyone). The RWNYS has been the perfect opportunity for me to improve and put my striking to the test.

Come A-Level results day, all being well I will have my place at University confirmed (studying Music, of course). I'm looking forward to ringing in a new area away from home and meeting new ringers – That's the beauty of ringing, it stays with you wherever you go. I don't know whether I'd be so keen to get back to ringing after lockdown if it

wasn't for Sussex Young Ringers and the RWNYS, so I have a lot to be thankful for.

Yorkshire Tykes

Luke Groom, Graduate

During lockdown, the only way that young ringers have been socialising is through video calls and the odd ringing session on Ringing Room. Ringing Room has allowed us to 'ring' together a little bit during lockdown, so we have been able to have a go at a few things on there. I have attempted a few quarter peals using RR, but none have been successful due to internet issues. The only other way that I have been able to do any form of ringing is by using Abel and Mobil to practice handbell ringing. In more recent times since the lockdown measures have been relaxed, I have been able to meet with others for some handbell ringing and attempt some quarter peals, although now Leicester is back in lockdown this has come to a halt again.

Ewan Hull, Graduate

I have been a member of the Yorkshire team for eight years (2012–2019), with two years as a member of the Yorkshire Puds and six years with the Yorkshire Tykes. The year I started I was the youngest ringer in the competition and I didn't really understand what it was all about. And in the last few years the RWNYS has been a major highlight of my year and one of the things I look forward to most, so it'll be strange to not have the contest to look forward to.

I was in the winning team of 2017, which was probably the highlight of my time as a Tyke, and also the best ringing we've had in all the time I've been in the team. I've really enjoyed my time as team captain since our previous captain, Alex Riley, left after the 2018 contest in London. I've found that being team captain has been really rewarding seeing the team improve over the last two years, moving on from Plain Bob Triples to ring Surprise Major and Stedman with an eligible band at practices. Also seeing the younger ringers progressing from call changes into method ringing makes the practices we have each month seem worthwhile.

It's a shame that we won't be able to ring this year because the team was very strong, with 11 or 12 Tykes who would have been able to ring to competition standard, and we feel we could have had a good chance at doing well this year. I was very much looking forward to ringing in this year's contest in York and getting the chance to captain the team in my home city; it would've been great to win on home turf!

I think that the Tykes will do well after James, Luke and I leave because of the depth of the squad and the enthusiasm of our leader, Jane Lynch; a potentially winning team of years to come ...

I have really enjoyed my time ringing for Yorkshire and I'm going to greatly miss ringing with the Tykes and in the RWNYS. I will continue to support the team and I wish them the very best at future RWNYSs.

The UL in lockdown – as seen from outside

by Katherine Fowler

We were pleased to hear from Katherine Fowler, a non-ringer who wrote the following article for a journalism qualification about London students' ringing during lockdown.

There are few things more traditional than the sound of church bells, but current social distancing rules are forcing bellringers and churches to look to more modern technologies to keep their bells ringing.

When I was invited to join a regular Thursday evening bellringing practice with the University of London Society of Change Ringers (ULSCR), I was not expecting to be sat in my dining room, in need of nothing but an internet connection and a computer keyboard.

And yet this is how the ULSCR have adapted to the lockdown that we are all currently facing due to COVID-19. With social distancing requirements to keep at least two metres away from people outside of your immediate household, it is impossible for bellringers to meet in person in church bell towers.

The ULSCR's normal place of practice is St Olave's Church, Hart Street, near to London's Fenchurch Street and Tower Hill stations. With bellringers apparently in short supply in the capital, many of the ringers spent their pre-lockdown Sundays dashing between churches, including St Olave's, to cover multiple services.

But, while lockdown continues, the ULSCR have moved their Thursday evening practices into the virtual world by using a website called Ringing Room. Computer graphics represent the bells, which can be rung by simply tapping the space bar on a keyboard.

"There's normally less talking in between the ringing," Josie Godfrey, the group's ringing master, told me when I asked her about the differences between practising online and in person. "We've normally got a time pressure. Because church bells sound very loud outside, we can't just keep ringing them all evening. We absolutely have to be finished by 8.30pm, otherwise we start getting complaints."

However, as with all things technological, practising on Ringing Room comes with its own set of difficulties.

There is a scurry at the start of practice as everyone searches for headphones, as practising without them risks unpleasant feedback noises overwhelming the sound of bells. One "method" – a particular pattern in which the bells are rung – is interrupted by the incessant ding of WhatsApp notifications. One

member has to rig up three different devices to run Ringing Room, the voice call, and read his line of music at the same time.

"This is more funny than ringing real bells!" one ringer exclaims during the practice, as another declares "I'm going to go and get myself a gin." One person dials in from what appears to be the middle of a park, just to say hello and catch up with their friends.

Practising online allows the session to be "more relaxed," said Josie. "People pop in and out more than they would do with a real practice."

However, Josie, herself a third-year music student at King's College London, admitted that the more relaxed attitude could make it "a bit more difficult to run the practice."

Her other concern is whether the practising on Ringing Room will help when the group eventually return to St Olave's. One ringer, Chris Backhouse, said that there was a "world of difference" in the skills required to use Ringing Room and ring an actual church bell.

"It's the Guitar Hero version of bellringing," added fellow ringer Sonja Hammes, referring to the video game where you mimic playing a guitar by simply pressing buttons in time to the music.

Josie is very aware of the differences. "A lot of our beginners have progressed a lot more than they would have done," she told me.

"And I don't know how easy it'll be for them to put that into practice on a real bell."

When asked why she had decided to bring the practices online, Josie explained that "when the lockdown started we had a few people who were just starting to ring methods, and I thought it would be a shame for them to stop at that point and they'd forget everything that they'd learnt."

Ringing Room has also been important for the group's sense of community during the pandemic. "The other reason was just wanting to stay in touch with everyone and check everyone's okay," Josie added. "Obviously we've got a lot of students, and I wanted to find out how everyone's doing."

ULSCR's practice stopped briefly at 8pm as the majority of the ringers chose to go outside to clap for the NHS. But while the bells were paused on Ringing Room, they were sounding out across the village of Farsley, near Leeds.

St John's Church, which dates to 1843, only has one tolling bell, something that



Members of ULSCR at St Paul's Cathedral (Photo: Josie Godfrey)

churchwardens Janet Whitaker and Lorna Sykes have never seen used. However, for as long as they can remember, a CD player within the church has allowed the sound of bells to be played out from speakers in the bell tower.

On Easter Sunday, after lockdown had begun, the decision was made to play the sound of bells from the tower. "We couldn't let it go unnoticed, so we decided we would play the bells, and also some religious music for half an hour," explained Janet. "We decided as a church that we would like to let the village know that we were still a presence in the village."

Janet added that the Easter Sunday bells had had "a very good response" from the local community, and they had since been asked to play them for other occasions, including for the NHS at 8pm on Thursdays.

"I go up every Thursday and turn the bells on for two minutes," said Lorna. "I think it's good to do that, just to let them know that we're following them and we're with them all the time."

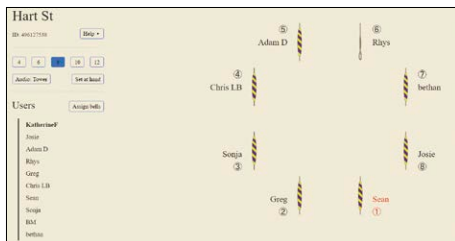
The bells are also now playing for ten minutes every Sunday at 11am, and most recently they were played for VE Day.

"Because churches are actually closed, and we as churchwardens can go in to check the building, that's when we put the bells on," explained Janet. "We want to let the village know that although the building is actually closed, that the presence is still there. And people are quite grateful for what we've been doing."

"They like to know we're still there," added Lorna, "and we like them to know that we are still here."



The ULSCR practising at St Olave's Church before lockdown (Photo: Jossie Godfrey)



Ringing Room uses computer graphics to represent bells that can be rung with a press of the space bar (Photo: Katherine Fowler)



The ULSCR at The Imperial Institute before lockdown (Photo: Josie Godfrey)

“Ding Dong!” – A suite of lessons about ringing for primary school children

by Jason Hughes



A welcome from the Vicar during the church visit at the end of the lesson sequence

This article describes the creation and delivery of a suite of eleven lessons about bellringing to Year 5 pupils (9- & 10-year-olds) at Gresham Primary School, South Croydon during May 2019 and a visit to Addington Parish Church, Surrey.

The impetus came from previous ‘bellringing in schools’ projects including ‘The Charmborough Ring in Schools Project’ (CRISP) (see *RW* 2010, pp.1053–1055) and ‘The Charmborough Ring Utilised at Bensham Manor School’ (CRUMBS), delivered to pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities. These projects included classroom lessons on permutations in mathematics, handbell ringing and tower bell ringing and related to the interests and skills of the bellringer delivering the lessons.

The natural extension to these earlier projects was to create a suite of lessons that linked directly to the National Curriculum for England but maintained the bellringing theme. The new set of lessons covered the majority of the subjects in the National Curriculum, though subjects that were not covered were Languages, Physical Education, Geography* and Computing**. (New lessons and features to cover these

last two subjects have since been written – see end.) My intention was that the lessons should be accessible to Year 5 pupils by matching strands of the National Curriculum to bellringing, to be stand-alone and therefore deliverable by non-ringing schoolteachers, and, if available, supported by local ringers. Year 5 was chosen to avoid SATS, the national examinations in Year 6, where valuable curriculum time can be lost, although the lessons could be delivered following those examinations in the summer term of Year 6.

This trial was not a recruitment exercise

Objectives

What might seem to ringers to be going against the grain is that ringing bells was optional in these lessons! Instead, the lessons give pupils an introduction to the history, science, mathematics, music of bellringing etc., whetting their appetite whilst they are relatively young but can understand the principles. This also means that those

schools where for whatever reason a local church is not available are not significantly disadvantaged and are still able to access the materials. This trial was not a recruitment exercise, although many pupils asked if they could learn. Of course, if there are suitable bells nearby then the lessons can lead to the children learning to ring.

‘My favourite change is queens’ – a non-ringing 10-year-old

The intention is that the lesson plans will be made available to schools. A suggested structure to the lessons is provided here, but ultimately this should be driven by the class teacher, the school calendar and when a church visit can be arranged. The structure follows what we did at Gresham Primary School, although this was altered. Teachers would be supported, with written advice and links, but would be expected to contact local ringers and churches.

I hope that arrangements could be made if needed for a ringer to meet the teacher and prepare the introductory lesson, and bring props for discussion: suggestions include handbells, ropes, muffles, model bells and a clapper.

The subject lessons then follow, finishing with a Church visit. A final classroom lesson is recommended to write letters of thanks, to reflect on learning and complete any outstanding activities.

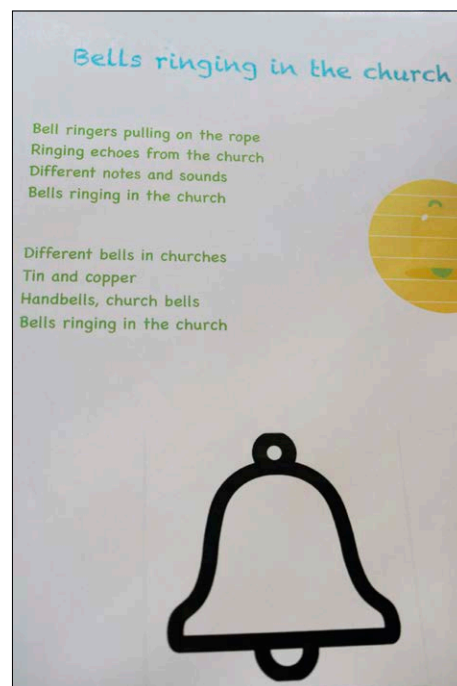
Each lesson contains a script that includes questions and answers. For example, in the introductory lesson:

Question: Why do the ropes have a sally?

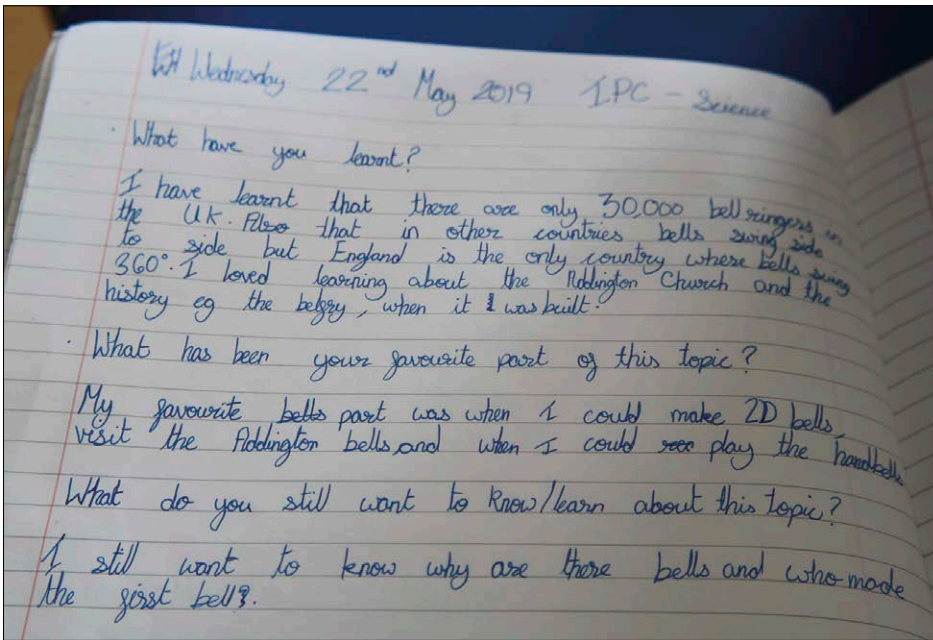
Answer: So that ringers can grip the rope better.



Students from Bensham Manor School enjoy the Charmborough Ring



A child's poem



Children reflected on what they learnt in writing work

Feedback from the non-ringing classroom teacher:

I thought this was a really lovely addition to the curriculum we usually undertake. Music is not really covered, and it gave the children something different to do. I think the unit would take six weeks in total (an average of 2-3 lessons a week). Some lessons could have been stretched over two lessons (due to our timetable and the short half term this didn't happen). If geography was also added in*, it would cater for all of the subjects which is great – an entry point, knowledge harvest and exit point/performance would therefore ensure it ran for the six-week usual half terms.

knowing Queens on 8 to writing out Queens on 6 bells.

The children enjoyed the practical elements of this lesson. They were able to use the virtual keyboard well and the notes were easy for them to understand.

3. DT (Design and Technology)

This lesson was probably the best received in the unit – it allowed the children to be independent and appealed to different learning styles as they visually drew the bell and labelled the parts, before physically making one with card. They were all different shapes and sizes, which worked well as the main parts were included. They all understood what to do and how the bell was able to move. An extension activity was to add a rope to their bell.

4. English

A sample lesson plan for this lesson is available online at www.ringingworld.co.uk/resources/DingDongLessonPlan.pdf, or rwrld.uk/gh8g

Children study the poem 'Summoned by Bells' by John Betjeman and were asked to

Plans also include keywords. For example in the introductory lessons keywords included: *Handbell, Cast, Foundry, Sally, Hemp and Flax.*

Pupils were expected to learn definitions and the keywords formed part of their weekly spelling tests.

There were extension activities built into the lessons as well. And classroom activities are cross-referenced to the National Curriculum requirements.

And homework ...

Lesson plans

So what happened in the lessons?

1. Introduction

The children were introduced to bellringing through props; they estimated the length of a bellrope.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this and could recognise and remember some of their new keywords such as 'Sally' during later lessons, in addition to the basic parts of the bell and how it is rung/swings. It was great for the class to physically see items that were brought in, including a clapper and a bell rope. Videos were also played that helped engage them and put the parts of the bell into some perspective.

2. Music

Children were introduced to the major scale in C and investigated the major scale in F. They listened to the *1812 Overture* and recorded the instruments that they heard. Some of the more able were asked to sing the notes they heard back to the class.

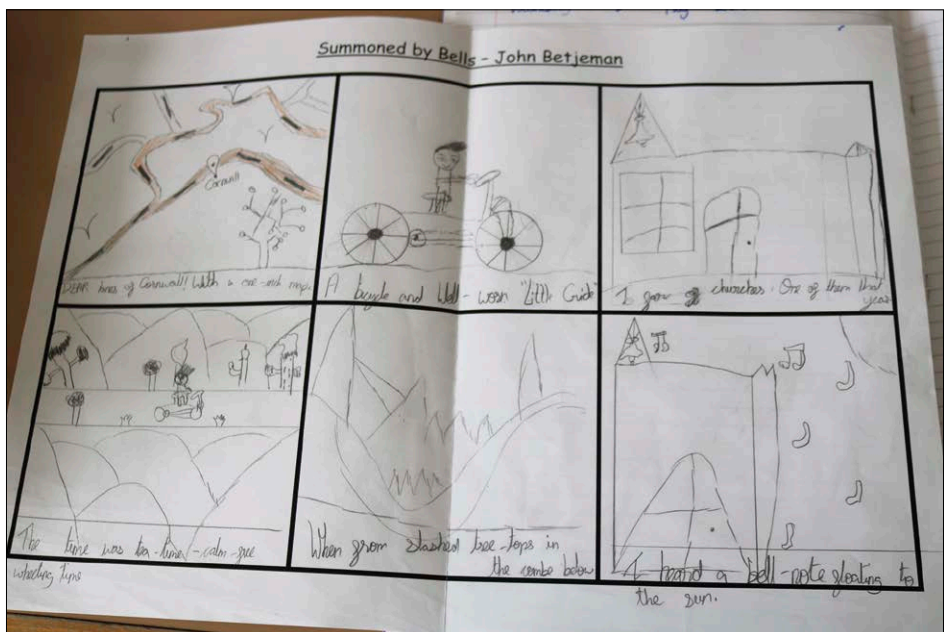
Using virtual keyboards, they ranked their favourite changes on 8 bells. They were introduced to the standard musical changes and voted on their favourite.

Quote: 'my favourite change is queens'

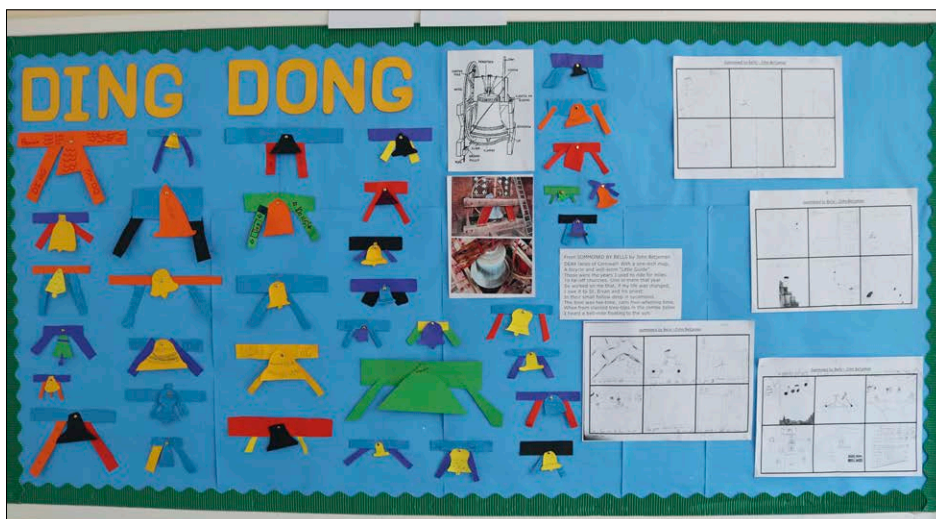
They were then asked to reduce the changes from 8 to 6 bells for example,



Happy learners!



The art work reflecting their thoughts on the John Betjeman poem Summoned by Bells



Classroom display showing children's model bells and art work on the Betjeman poem

draw their interpretations of the scenes created by the poet.

Again, the children enjoyed this lesson as it was hands on and allowed them to flourish as artists. They all had their own unique take on the poem itself and had a good conversation beforehand about what the poem was about, what certain words meant and their interpretations of the poem (in addition to defining the key words from the plan). They all completed the drawings and most also wrote the line of the poem that they had sketched.

As a homework, children were asked if they could create their own poem about a bell/note.

5. RE (Religious Education)

The children were able to find out the key facts about the history of the church. However, they did find extracting the information a little challenging. They found it easier when they came back to it in the next lesson. They learnt about the architecture and the names of parts of the Church including the font and alter.

6. PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education)

Children were given scenarios around the members of the tower and church to discuss and think about. Children chose which scenario they wanted to write about (having read them out prior to starting). They worked independently but were urged to think carefully about really explaining their own point of view. Their writing was lovely upon reading, and showed they had thought carefully about what they were saying, in addition to the different answers/solutions that may be available for each scenario. The children also discussed these questions with the teacher and shared some good 'PSHE' language and empathy towards the characters who were mentioned.

Scenario (remembering these are 9- and 10-year-olds):

The Vicar asks that the bellringers go to the service, but some of the bellringers don't believe in God.

Quote: 'If they don't believe in God, why work for a church?'

One of the bellringers doesn't always ring their bell at the right time with the right



During the church visit

rhythm, what should the tower captain/conductor say to them?

Quote: 'the tower captain should say "pay attention"'

Quote: 'have a separate class on the weekend'

Quote: 'make the best bellringer show them what to do and when to ring the bell'

"my favourite part was visiting the church"

7. Science

Children measured the diameter of handbells and compared that to the note. The children had a computing lesson/link here as they input their data onto the computer. The children enjoyed the part of the lesson on levers and forces. They also learned what metal a bell is made from and how a bell is cast.

They were given a quiz on their bellringing/science knowledge:

One question centred on why do bigger bells have larger wheels? They understood that it is all about the distance from the pivot to the garter hole that gives greater leverage.

They were also asked where is the pivot on the bell?

Many, from their knowledge of the parts of a bell, said gudgeon.

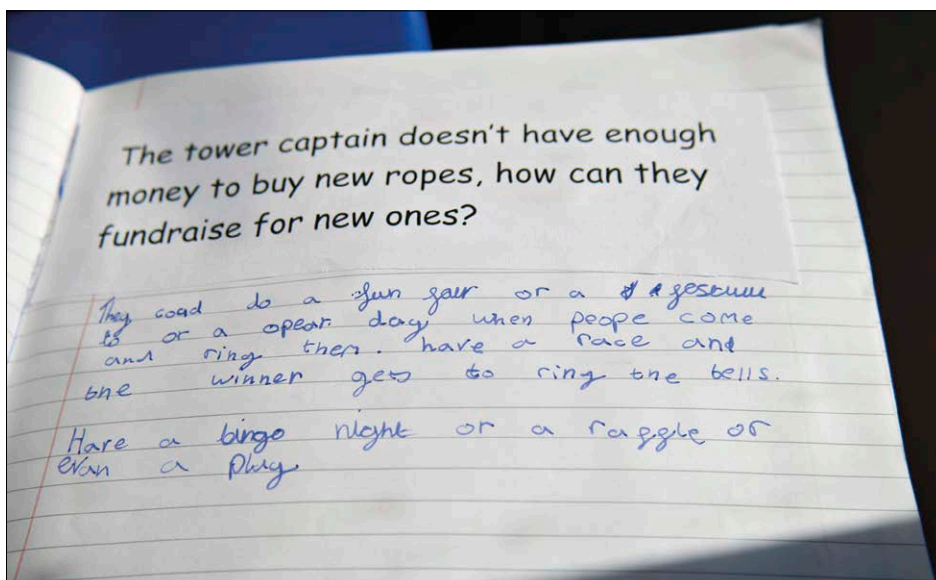
Quote: 'in other Countries the bells swing side to side but in England they swing 360 degrees'

8. History

Research on local landmarks including Addington Palace. Preparation for Addington Church visit; pupils researched the church and prepared their questions to ask the vicar.

9. Church visit

The children thoroughly enjoyed this trip. They asked some great questions and were clearly enthusiastic for the entire time they were there. It was great to complete this trip on a round robin. They rang handbells (lapping), quizzed the Vicar in the Church and visited the belfry and rang backstrokes in the ringing room. The timings were sensible (20mins for each activity) and they were all hands-on and practical. The children took the questions they created in the previous lesson and used these to extend their own knowledge and understanding of the history



A question for discussion and answer



Children ringing handbells

of the church. It was so nice for the children to be able to ‘see’ what they had been learning about.

10. Follow up lesson

RE: They were able to re-affirm what they had learnt whilst at the church and also add more detail about the interior of the church or things they found out having spoken to the Vicar about the history of the church itself. The children all achieved this and wrote a good couple of paragraphs each. As a challenge, they were asked to try and put together the main points from the Church’s history onto a timeline.

“What was your favourite part of the topic?”

“Ringing the bells at the church”

11. Maths (permutations)

This was another lesson that the children thoroughly enjoyed. There was a good amount of challenge and they were able to work together and collaborate to find the answers to the challenges. They were intrigued and eager to find out if their answer was correct or not. They enjoyed the introduction to the lesson (ding, dong, bing, bong – which led to plain hunt on 4) and were able to explain why returning to ‘rounds’ sounded ‘boring’ originally based on what they had learnt at the church and during previous lessons. The children were also able to explain why ‘EMMA’ had less changes than ‘LUCY’ due to the double letters. This definitely made maths fun and the children’s reactions certainly spoke for themselves.

Quotes: “I loved this lesson. This is my favourite so far”

“This was so much fun”

Next steps

The lesson plans need polishing, so they are of a commercial quality, including consistent presentation, the timings for activities made clear and a user guide.

An intention is to write a follow-on suite of lessons designed for pupils in Year 7 which, where available, would include practical lessons on ringing. Many secondary schools use an enrichment programme in Year 7 that is thematic, which lends itself to bellringing. Most Gresham pupils move to the same secondary school and that is the intended target for a second suite of lessons.

The lesson plans need imbedded video and sound clips exclusively created to avoid the need for YouTube (which some schools have blocked as part of their safeguarding controls) and to avoid any performing rights issues, etc.

We need to ensure that schools look for class and whole-school themes that the teacher can fit into the lessons. Encourage schools to add their own ideas to the lessons that fit in with their school themes. For example, it might involve a handbell concert, ringing carols at Christmas, celebrating a local historical event/person, Remembrance, etc.



The helpers having a blast!

Literacy - Lesson Plan

1. Introductory Activity
Interpreting a poem

10-15 mins

The first section of the poem, in *italics*, is read by the author and contains images of Cornwall. BBC iPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p022mhl/s/summoned-by-bells>

From 38:51 minutes to 39:10 minutes

Play the clip several times, so that pupils get a sense of the images and sounds.

Pupils read the poem out loud to the class

From SUMMONED BY BELLS by John Betjeman

DEAR lanes of Cornwall! With a one-inch map, A bicycle and well-worn "Little Guide", Those were the years I used to ride for miles To far-off churches.

One of them that year, So worked on me that, if my life was changed, I owe it to St. Ervan and his priest In their small hollow deep in sycamores. The time was tea-time, calm free-wheeling time, When from slashed tree-tops in thecombe below I heard a bell-note floating to the sun...

Objective
To appreciate the author's use of literary techniques to paint a picture with words

Resources
Poem on screen
BBC iPlayer, pre-prepared.
A3 paper, with a grid of six boxes for pupils to draw pictures
Colouring pencils

Explain the keywords

With the poem on the board and pupils working in groups, ask the following questions to provoke discussion:

What does the author see?
What does the author hear?
What images are suggested?

©NG DONG - Literacy lesson

The first page of a sample lesson plan, currently available at rwrld.uk/qh8g

A geography lesson has been written which includes looking at maps: the symbols for churches and working out 4- and 6-figure grid references. How bellringing has spread across the world through commonwealth countries and the economics and trade around bells including the closure of the Whitechapel Bell foundry.

Elements of computing have been included in the preparation for the science lesson and in the maths lesson.

Sadly, opportunities for the delivery of the lessons this year have been unavailable due to the closure of schools. But this project would not have been possible without the support of Karen Steele, Headteacher of Gresham Primary school, Ryan Grace the Year 5 class teacher, David Whitehead the Tower Captain of Addington Church, Revd Debbie Forman the Vicar and members of the Surrey Association, Trisha Hawkins and Ian Gurrifths, and of course the children of Year 5, so many thanks to you all.

A word with ... Estella Haynes

Estella Haynes was due to be one of the co-judges at this year's Youth Contest, after competing with the Coventry Spires youth team for four years and going on to study (and ring) at the University of Nottingham. She talked to the Assistant Editor about family ringing, female leadership, and youth ringing.

How did you get into bell ringing?

I couldn't escape it if I'd tried! Both of my parents are bell ringers, as well as both sets of my grandparents. My paternal grandfather, Frank E Haynes, was prominent on the bell ringing scene in Birmingham from 1929 – 1964, conducting many peals of Stedman at St Martins including the coronation peal in 1937, and my maternal grandparents have been ringing at a local village tower, Dunchurch, for over 50 years. My mum is a Cumberland and a NUSCR, and my dad is a College Youth and a SUGCR alumnus.

I had no hope.

What was your first experience of the bell tower and ringing?

I believe I attended my first Twelve Bell Contest at the tender age of minus 5 months – I hope my mum wasn't frequenting the beer tent. Some of my earliest bell ringing memories are from playing in the ruins of Coventry cathedral, pretending that the remains of the pillars were spaceships.

After refusing point blank to let my dad teach me to ring, I was then taught to handle a bell by Sue Marshall, who was very patient with a stubborn 10-year-old me.

What inspires you and motivates you?

It used to be fear of failure, god forbid I embarrass myself by going in slow in a quick six. Since my confidence has grown, I am more motivated by achieving goals, especially those with my peers, such as the 10-bell all undergraduate quarter that NUSCR scored earlier this year.

Who do you look up to or admire (in bell ringing and outside) and why?

I have always looked up to our close family friend, Julia Cater; even before I learnt to handle a bell, Julia was making sure I ate my crusts, and now I'm ringing she regularly encourages me to ring further round the back. As a young female in ringing, it is often hard to feel confident in yourself and your ringing ability, and it has been so valuable to have Julia to look up to and show that just because you're a girl, it doesn't mean that you can't ring heavier bells.

I think it's very inspiring to see women encouraging and instilling confidence in other women within ringing, rather than seeing them knocked back and fall into the regular stereotypes of ringing 'round the front' and 'not caring about composition'. NUSCR is currently quite a 'female-heavy' university society – five of the past six ringing masters being female – with members like Emily Hall often encouraging us girls to push ourselves by ringing a heavier bell and putting ourselves out there more, when we perhaps felt too nervous to try even if we wanted to.



Outside of ringing, my idol will always be Roger Federer. The sportsmanship he displays on a worldwide platform is something we should all aspire to have, within ringing too. Plus, he's not bad at hitting green fuzzy things over a net.

What do you find most and least satisfying about ringing?

Most satisfying: when Queens comes up cleanly in Stedman triples. Least satisfying: when I mess Queens up.

How have you been keeping busy during the lockdown?

Like many others, in the absence of 'normal' bell ringing, my family and I have turned our focus to handbells – there have been no fall outs or divorces ... yet.

NUSCR have continued to meet on Microsoft Teams every Tuesday evening, taking part in quizzes, activities such as 'Would I Lie to You?' and 'Taskmaster', and of course, drinking and socialising!

I have also been cycling, playing tennis, making Tiktoks, and drawing, as well as learning British Sign Language.

What do you think would encourage young people to stay ringing?

One of the best things about ringing is being part of the 'adult world' as a younger person, especially when you are treated with the same level of respect as any other ringer. I think this attitude of talking to young ringers like adults and not babies is hugely important in encouraging young people to stay ringing, as being treated with condescension is embarrassing and upsetting for young ringers.

As a teenager, feeling a level of acceptance within this community was hugely important in making me want to continue progressing and improving my ringing.

I also think the social aspect of bell ringing is especially important for young ringers, and doing something other than ringing on an outing is great, like bowling, ice skating or a bake off.

What do you study at university?

Much to the dismay of my beauty sleep, I study an MEng in Architecture and

Environmental Design (Architecture and Engineering).

Are you a member of any other societies?

As well as NUSCR, I am a member of the University of Nottingham tennis club, of which I am the Social Secretary and compete weekly in the university leagues. I also like to torture myself further by playing netball for the Architecture department on Sunday mornings after service ringing.

Which one (if any) gets preference?

Societies and sports clubs at University are so diverse and I love them all in a very different way – although having to get up at 5.45am for tennis training might give bell ringing the edge ...

How do you balance bell ringing with university/job/other activities?

I often find myself turning up to ringing on a Wednesday night in sweaty sports kit after a long day of competing as far away as Stirling, much to the dismay of my fellow Beeston ringers I'm sure. My life at university is a busy one with very little sleep, but I love it!

Have you held any positions of responsibility? How did you find it?

I was NUSCR master 2019-2020, which proved to be a tough job as we spent most of this year without a home tower! Pesky pigeons. However, I did enjoy tackling the new challenges I was presented with and NUSCR clearly didn't lose their touch, coming second in both the NUA striking competition and Boat Race – we all know the most important competition of the two ...

If I could do anything differently, I'd probably try to not get as stressed out by aspects of the job and just enjoy it more!

What are your ambitions for after university both professionally and in ringing?

I can't say I have many specific bell ringing goals, although I'd love to be in one of my dad's top 10 peals, which probably means I'll have to ring a peal of Stedman Triples in hand.

Later this year a few of us will also be attempting to break the record for the number of bell ringers in a nightclub at once.

Professionally, I have no idea! Open to any job offers in 2 years' time when I graduate.

Do you think you will always be active in bell ringing circles or would you like to take a sabbatical at some point?

One of the things I love most about ringing is that it will always be there. While I was still at school, balancing my A Levels, tennis, netball and more, I often only found myself ringing perhaps once or twice a month. And I certainly wouldn't make it to practice night when the Great British Bake-Off final was on.

While I try to find a balance and don't feel like I must go ringing all the time, it will always be a big part of my life. I don't think I could ever escape, and I never want to!

Do you think the university ringing scene is currently in a healthy state?

Yes and no.

Currently a lot of University ringing societies are incompatible with the way their Student Unions are set up, due to things such as elections/committee handovers being at a different time of year and a minimum number

My short, strange ringing career

of around 25 members required for a society to be affiliated with the SU. These and other issues make it difficult to run smoothly alongside the Students Union and mean we can't always take advantage of better engagement and recruitment opportunities that the university could offer.

However, many university ringing societies are still thriving, even if on a smaller scale to other clubs and societies, and it has been great to see members from different universities connecting with each other over lockdown and making new friends.

When and how did you become involved in the Ringing World National Youth Contest?

I became involved with the Coventry Spirens in 2014. We weren't a very experienced team when we started out, and didn't go to the RWNYC to win, but we improved year on year and enjoyed getting the chance to ring at new places.

For how many years did you take part?

2015 to 2018, although from four years of competitions I seem to have collected about ten medals: where do they all come from?

What is your best memory from previous contests?

As we were going up to collect our medals at my first ever contest, what I'm sure was an adult voice shouted, 'Go on Haynesey' from the audience, which just really made me smile. I still don't know who you are, so if you would like to own up now please feel free.

(and worst?)

At the 2018 contest in London, I remember losing phone signal while England were in a penalty shootout with Colombia in the World Cup. Absolute nightmare.

Were you looking forward to seeing it from the other side as a judge this year?

Absolutely. I was very surprised to be asked, and actually almost turned it down as I was nervous and worried about not being good enough, especially as the other four young judges from last year/this year were in a long length peal together! However, I was very grateful to be asked and decided to take the opportunity to gain valuable new experiences, even if it meant sitting in a hot, sweaty room for eight hours!

Would you still like to be involved in future?

I would love to! I have a lot of respect for all those involved with organising the contest, it's a huge task!

What do you think could be done to maintain the enthusiasm of young ringers after people turn 18, graduate the RWNYC and move to university ringing?

At Nottingham we are always looking to offer extra opportunities within university ringing, having had some tied bell sessions for those hoping to improve their handling or have a go on the simulator, and are hoping to have some sessions in the future that focus on teaching others to ring.

We also make sure to do other socials as well as just ringing, such as adventure golf, bowling, and the pub. I think the annual NUA meet up is a great way to keep people enthusiastic about ringing, encouraging inter-University mixing and being around so many ringers your own age, which is very rare.

Janet Dines recalls how the strong bonds between young ringers helped her through great challenges during her university days.

From as far back as I can remember (wartime) we shared Christmas Day and Boxing Day afternoons and evenings with another family. They had three boys: Alan, David, and Michael. I was one year younger than Michael. The mothers were friends, and it became a tradition. We played party games which were popular at the time and had a lot of fun, but didn't see them at any other time.

As we grew older, Alan went to University, David was articled to an architect, Michael went to Southampton University, then I went to Manchester University.

I missed 'Freshers Week' but spent my first term hoping to try something new. I lived in a small Hall of Residence, so when I discovered that a third-year girl, Ann Muirhead, was a bell-ringer, I plucked up courage and asked if I could learn. As it was nearly the end of term she agreed to take me to a practice at 'their' tower – the Flat Iron in Salford – when we returned.

On that Christmas Day, under interrogation as to what it was like 'up North', I blurted out that I was going to learn to ring. 'I can ring', said Michael (V. White), 'I'll start you off tomorrow' – which he did.

Progress was very rapid, as in Manchester I met Ann's friend Ruth Jackson, Geoff Fearnough (who lived and rang in Rushalme, a district of south Manchester), and many other good ringers who had come already able to ring. Back in Weston-super-Mare, the local students who had dispersed to various Universities gathered on Sunday afternoons to ring at the disused church in Uphill, which had bells but no roof on the nave.

Thus, I had two bands who all knew what they were doing, so if I learnt what I had to do, there was always a space ready for me! Fortunately both places required a long, straight pull and a slight pause before the handstroke lead, making it easy to know when the treble was leading.

In the summer 'vac' we had a tour in the Welsh Marches, ringing at four or five churches a day, cycling between and staying at youth hostels. Thus, more quick progress, especially since we were joined at the weekend by Ann and Ruth's fiances Rex Agg and Peter Border.

This idyllic life came to a sudden end a few weeks later, when I had a severe attack of the worst (paralytic) form of polio. Nine months of intensive physio and occupational therapy, followed by three months at home, was, hopefully, to prepare me for a return to Manchester for my second year. During this time I met only four other 'polio survivors': one was a child, and the other three very soon became divorced, so I became convinced that I was now unlovable.

With hindsight I know that I accepted more from Michael than I should have done during those three months – he had a car by then

and took me to some of my treatments and for outings, all of which I enjoyed. He may have taken this as encouragement, but with my unlovable conviction I treated him more like the brother I 'didn't have' because he was away at sea.

With crutches, calipers, a back-support and a Government 'trike' I tottered back to Manchester thinking my ringing days were over; my ringing friends had other ideas! One of our towers had two straight flights of steps so someone would carry me up. 'But you would have to take my crutches away and then I would fall down.' Someone would stand behind, holding on to my waist. 'But I can't lift both hands at once without falling down because my back is so weak'. Someone would stand in front ready to take over. Having run out of excuses, I agreed to try. This is the really strange bit – even though the rope can't control itself and neither can I, together we stood firm (as with crutches) and everyone who ever stood behind me said they did nothing – but I would not have tried without them.

Gingerly I caught hold of the sally with one hand, then crawled the other up that arm, pulled off and up went both hands with the rope supporting me, right up for the backstroke. I could ring again! Not anywhere, but certainly in that tower, and at Uphill, where David (yes, he was a ringer too) discovered a track so his narrow car could approach the church from the back.

Thus I had two more happy years of ringing, but moved away from Manchester, to work near Warrington for a firm which provided hostel accommodation for employees, in a village which had bells but a spiral staircase. Since I would never make an extra ringer, I didn't look for a ground-floor ring. End of career.

When she was very old my mother showed me a letter from Mrs White at about that time, which showed that they had been hoping Michael and I would wed. They, of course, didn't realise I was unlovable! However, Michael met and married Bridget Sanger. They do lots of ringing and travelling. I'm grateful to her that we are all still friends. We are godparents to each other's daughters who both became ringers, and the families have enjoyed some good times together.

JANET DINES (née Hughes)

EXECUTIVE OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

President: Simon Linford

Deputy President: David Kirkcaldy

Treasurer: Andrew Mccall

Secretary: Mary Bone,

11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts, CM21 9DB
(01279 726159) secretary@cccbr.org.uk

**Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett,
David Smith, Clyde Whittaker**

Website address: www.cccbr.org.uk

Kent Young Ringers: A five-year reflection

by Jen Thomas



An outing to Canterbury Cathedral in 2018

Beginnings

An enthusiastic approach from a young Association Chairman kick-started the growth of getting young ringers from around Kent together. He organised an Inter-District Young Ringers' Striking Contest in the October half term 2015. Three Districts were able to field teams on this first occasion (the Kent County Association is divided into six Districts). Everyone was a little nervous as this was the first time youngsters from around the County had got together in a competitive atmosphere. A couple of get-togethers had been arranged in preceding years; some of the Kent young ringers had met up within the Maidstone, Lewisham and Tonbridge Districts and a few had enjoyed meeting up with our neighbouring young ringers across the border in Sussex. But this was the first time young ringers gathered from across the Association: no mean feat, with travelling distances of 70+ miles from the London end of the county to the Margate and Folkestone areas on the coast at the other end.

Six months later in April 2016, at the KCACR AGM, it was decided to establish the role of "Youth Officer" to the Kent County Association of Change Ringers. This coincided with a very new team participating in the first "South East England Youth Striking Contest" held at Epsom Common (SEECON* as it came to be known). This first venture saw a rather hasty gathering of eight youngsters from around the county; five of them had been able to attend a practice at Whitstable the night before, but ringing together at Epsom was the first time that they had all met to ring together!

The next objective was to foster a sense of unity by holding practices for this new group of youngsters to ring together and to enter a team in the RWNYP in London in summer 2016; again this involved seeing who would be available and meeting up for some practice sessions. Ringing for the RWNYP in London, discovering what was happening with young ringers across the UK and an outing on public transport was the impetus that was needed to spur this group on.

Where are we now?

From these first shoots we now have a comprehensive annual programme and a Youth Coordinator elected in each of the six Districts, as well as the Association Youth

Officer. There is a Young Ringers' page on the KCACR website with information about upcoming events and reports and photos of happenings. A whole range of items is also posted on a dedicated and interactive Facebook page. Admins, who need a sense of humour, occasionally have to use a "red pen"!

We have introduced a "buddy" system with a more-experienced youngster to check that their "supervisee" gets the right kind of ringing for them

Our Young Ringers get together once a month, usually on the afternoon of the fourth Saturday, at one of four towers located in the middle of the county and near to a rail station. Numbers attending range from 9 to 22, usually around 15. The standard of ringing ranges from Rounds and Plain Hunt to Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major and beyond. We have reached the stage where help is needed from "young at heart" helpers only for other Surprise methods or to enable a more complex touch. One or two youngsters now share the running of each session. We have introduced a "buddy" system with a more-experienced youngster to "stand behind" and check that their "supervisee" gets the right kind of ringing for them. Homemade cake and/or biscuits always appear, but don't usually last long!

Outings

Afternoon outings during the Christmas and May holidays go to towers in those "further reaches" of Kent which are nearer home to some of the youngsters. Last year our outings took us to towers in the extreme western and southern parts of the County and we visited towers on the outskirts of London on our last Christmas holiday outing. We try to end at a tower which will be particularly interesting: Canterbury or Rochester Cathedral, Benenden, or Staplehurst often provide youngsters with their first attempts at ringing on 10 or 12, and Beckenham provided an opportunity to round off the day with a quarter peal of P B Caters.



One of twelve 'in-car' handbell quarters on a trip to the New Forest in 2019



Jubilation after the "girls only" quarter peal at Farnborough in October 2019

Different youngsters have the opportunity to run a tower on an outing: on our last Christmas outing, everyone chose something to ring and organised the band for that piece. Brookland was a particularly interesting choice of tower, not only for its structure which provided "hide and seek" opportunities, but for the ringing of methods such as "Original", which keeps everyone on their toes!



"We're practising ... watch out!"

We now have a summer "event" with picnic or BBQ. These have turned into "family" affairs; we have rung on the Mini ring housed in the garage of our present Chairman and have enjoyed ball games, handbell ringing, general ringing and quarter peals at Quex Park. Breakfast and Pizza opportunities also prove very popular either side of a contest or outing! This year we enjoyed some "non-ringing" socialising for our team members with a fun hour or so with 10-Pin bowling ... interesting to see different techniques and skill sets in this environment for a change!

The annual "Inter-District Young Ringers' Striking Contest" (6 bells) has become an established and competitive affair, hosted by a different District each year. People with strong links to Youth ringing are invited to judge and we now have an amazing trophy which so far has been won once by the Lewisham District and three times by the Tonbridge District. Young Ringers up to the age of 25 are permitted to ring in this contest, to enable Districts to enter a team. In 2019 the contest was held on a day with appalling weather conditions, but a very convivial event was held with Trevor Arnold's mini simulator "Maypole Ring" being rung inside the church at Sturry.

Peals and quarters – and holidays

A number of our Young Ringers are very keen on quarter peals and one is usually

arranged late morning before the afternoon outing. We have focused Quarter Peal outings during February and May half terms and the older youngsters usually arrange their own outings around Kent and in London during the summer, only calling in adults as backup if absolutely necessary. (Four successful quarter peals and an extent of Cambridge Minor were rung on the hottest day of July 2018.)

In 2019 KYR rang their first peal as a society along with 20 quarter peals; all of these were achievements for at least one person in each band; the peal of 5040 Minor at Kemsing and the quarter peal of Bob Doubles rung by six of the girls were particularly notable.

Each individual's progress is enabled by supportive members of the KCACR. In 2019: Laura rang 13 "firsts", including 7-spliced S Major, and rang London Major in 2020; six young ringers rang their first quarter peal (including Ellis, aged 9); three called their first quarter peal and four rang their first peal. In all the youngsters rang in 589 quarter peals and 106 peals within Kent and further afield in 2019 (they're mad!). A select few (even madder!) also rang 30 quarter peals on handbells, mostly whilst being driven in cars between towers or



The MINI-Ringers in action, for primary-school ringers age 7 and up

First steps

In May 2019 Kent MINI-Ringers was launched; this group is primarily aimed at primary-school ringers from age 7 up, also particularly covering that transition year to secondary school. Slightly older "new" ringers are invited to join this group as a precursor to joining in with KYR sessions. This group also meets at a couple of towers in mid-Kent approximately six times a year; one to four of the youngsters ring at a time with the remaining bells being rung by helpers from the older group.

like many ringing activities, had to be put on hold for the moment. Four or five youngsters have so far become involved with the judging of Striking Contests around the county; they were paired with more experienced ringers to start with, but are now proving confident and competent in their own right.

The standard of ringing improves constantly; events such as SEECON* and the RWNYC and the quarter peal days provide a real focus for concentrating on striking. We have been able to enter a team each year in SEECON and in the RWNYC since July 2016. We were SO thrilled to attain the RW Editor's Trophy for Excellence in Liverpool last summer (2019) in our fourth year of participating; the whole weekend was a fantastic experience. The year before, ten of our youngsters thoroughly enjoyed participating in the filming for Blue Peter as part of RWNYC 2018.

It is the enthusiasm of our Young Ringers present and past which is at the core of our "Youth Ringing" in Kent; Dan Jarvis paved the way in many areas before going to university last September, but has passed the baton on to a lively and active group of youngsters, who three years ago would barely talk to each other! During "lockdown" the MINI-Ringers and the Young Ringers have become active in RingingRoom, some older ones have rung handbell quarter peals with their families, and Amber and Jamie rang a quarter peal of P B Minimus via FaceTime; hoping to get Minor before too long! The state of "youth" ringing in Kent is healthy and we look forward to following their future ringing careers within Kent, at university and wherever they may go.



Both parts of the Editor's Trophy for Excellence meet up in Cudham the Sat before "RWNYC 2020". The first time the engraved plinth has met up with its handbell

in random locations ... churchyards, walking between towers, ferry crossings or 'other' ... In October 2019 a session on conducting and coursing orders was held. The benefits of the conducting session have already been seen with more Young Ringers calling quarter peals: Jamie called 10, including Cambridge Minor, P B Major and Yorkshire Major amongst others. Some of the Young Ringers have a particular link with the "interesting" bells at East Peckham and also joined in with the 200th Anniversary of the bells in the Waterloo Tower at Quex Park by ringing four quarters in one day, the last by torchlight as darkness fell. Those who have attained the ripe old age of 18+ are drafted in to give "ballast" to some quarter peals during vacations or to help extend the repertoire.

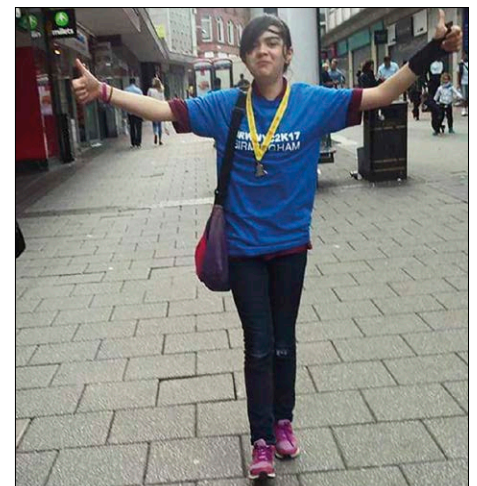
It's not just the young ones who are mad; the "responsible" adults indulge in mad ideas such as taking 11 or 12 away to a Youth Hostel for a couple of nights with ringing at four or five towers a day and various "recreational" activities. These provide some wonderful photo opportunities of youngsters and adults. So far we have rung at towers in Surrey and Sussex, the New Forest and Southampton, and this year we would have been visiting Essex and Herts immediately after Easter. Plans for 2021 are, however, in hand.

It is the enthusiasm of our Young Ringers present and past which is at the core of our "Youth Ringing" in Kent

This is a great opportunity for the "lesser experienced" of the older group to get considerably more ringing time themselves and also to have opportunities to try calling changes, enable place-making, dodging, plain hunt and even doubles methods for the more advanced MINIs. District Co-ordinators supervise from a safety/handling standpoint but rarely ring. A variety of activities are provided for "MINIs" when not ringing: quiz, wordsearch, decorating bell-shaped biscuits, or card handbell shapes etc; ringing mini handbells in call change sequences etc. Parents/carers oversee these activities and the all-important refreshments. A total of thirteen 7–12 yr olds have attended these sessions and 13 Young Ringers have come along as helpers. An assortment of boxes is a vital ingredient of these sessions! There is also a dedicated Facebook page for the parents of these MINI-Ringers.

Overview

A total of 55 young ringers from across the county participated in at least one activity during 2019, be that attending a morning for MINI-Ringers, an afternoon for Young Ringers, a session for youngsters in their own District or ringing for their District team in the Striking Contest. Approximately 32 youngsters participate actively. Sessions within Districts organised by District Coordinators are therefore becoming more important and happening more frequently. Ten youngsters attended the ART learning to teach module, but the follow up for this course has,



'No accidents today!' in Birmingham (2017)



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Charity Registration No 270036

Executive

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at 7pm by video conference.

Present: Simon Linford (President), David Kirkcaldy (Deputy President), Mary Bone (Secretary), Andy Smith (Treasurer), Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett, David Smith and Clyde Whittaker. They were joined by workgroup leaders Tim Hine, Alison Hodge, Graham John and Mark Regan and Vicki Chapman (Public Relations Officer).

The President reported on a meeting with the Church of England Church Recovery team and initial proposals for a limited return to Sunday service ringing. Specific guidance had been prepared by SMWG for tower captains, ringers and clergy. An article would appear in *The Ringing World* of 26 June and information would be circulated to Council members and affiliated societies.

Discussion continued on a number of topics:

- * The rôle of Central Council representatives as an information channel between the Council and societies;
- * The target audience for a replacement for *Will You Call a Touch Please, Bob?*
- * Possible arrangements for the presentation of the 2020 Westley award.

The Executive re-convened at 9pm.

Present: Simon Linford (President), David Kirkcaldy (Deputy President), Mary Bone (Secretary), Andy Smith (Treasurer), Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett, David Smith and Clyde Whittaker.

1. Following Doug Hird's resignation in May as leader of the Historical & Archive workgroup, the Executive **appointed** Christopher Ridley to this position. Doug was thanked for all his work as leader since June 2018 and, earlier, as "shadow" leader.

2. The Executive **confirmed** that all new workgroup leader appointments (Christopher Ridley, Colin Newman, Ian Roulstone and Mark Regan) would be subject to a 6-month review, as had been the case for the initial appointments made in June 2018. All workgroups would be reviewed annually by the whole Executive.

3. The Treasurer briefed the Executive on the current financial position. Most affiliation fees had now been received. There was a preliminary discussion on the budget for the 2021 Council meeting.

4. The Executive **approved** a Conflict of Interest policy which would replace the current guidance with effect from 1 October 2020 (<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/governance/> - - then select 'Policies').

5. The Executive **agreed** that the 2020 Council meeting would be held primarily by video conference (Zoom), commencing at 10am.

6. There was further discussion on the proposed 'Smaller Societies' rule change.

7. The next meeting of the Executive will be held by video conference on Sunday 26 July.

MARY BONE
Secretary

04.07.2020

Promotional opportunity

In our recent *Ringing World* articles we have discussed the fact that recruitment activities have a greater chance of success if there is an awareness about ringing and ringers within our local community.

The subject of a potential return to ringing, albeit currently limited, has already been aired in the national press. This is a move forward which will be welcomed by ringers everywhere. It is also a fantastic opportunity for us to promote bell ringing. Don't miss this possible opening to explain why, as we gradually return to Sunday ringing, the sound may differ compared with pre-lockdown service ringing!

So, ahead of any restart, why not submit an informative article for your church newsletter, contact your local radio station or newspaper and get posting on social media?

Further articles in the Recruitment and Retention series will follow, suggesting what can be done in terms of planning to recruit, train and retain ringers prior to a return to unrestricted ringing. Let's not ignore this chance to be fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead as we ease out of lockdown.

THE VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP
CCCRR RECRUITMENT
AND RETENTION TEAM

What's Hot on BellBoard?

A weekly round-up from *BellBoard*, including the five performances that received the most likes in the last week

Will Bosworth

It was only a matter of time, but still no mean feat: just over three months after the first performances on Ringing Room were logged, congratulations to the band who rang the first peal on the platform, quickly garnering 130 likes before this week's WH cutoff point. The first peal on 12 since lockdown was a rather windy affair but a real delight to hear

real ringing again. Two Guild of St Cuileáin performances next: Jack Page called Horton's Four and Rosie and Richie Robot get a second week in the top five, which is rounded off by a 'local' (distributed) quarter peal of Bristol Maximus by the Cambridge Youths.

BellBoard shows several different approaches to ringing for the first non-virtual Sunday services in the UK on Sunday 5th. A few churches had handbells – at Wells Cathedral in the South Transept, at Bury Cathedral in the West Porch. A band rang on eight on Ringing Room for Carlisle Cathedral's Eucharist. There was lots of talk

on social media about ringing alternate bells, but I think only St Erme in Cornwall reported actually doing so. Alan Birney chimed the bells of Great Mytton in Lancashire on the Ellacombe, the first time they have sounded since lockdown, and Clive and Michelle Stephenson chimed all eight at Hornchurch for the first non-virtual service given by their new vicar. The Socially Isolating Bicycle Ring (see 12 Jun p.575) rang outside St Christopher's Warden Hill in Cheltenham, with a quarter of Waterly Bottom before the Virtual Morning Service (what a mouthful).

Bristol Society

Ringing Room, UK
Thursday, 2 July 2020
in 2h31

5040 Minor (7m)

Seven extents: 1) Ipswich S; 2) Bourne S; 3) Kent TB; 4) Westminster S; 5) Norwich S; 6) Cambridge S; 7) Plain Bob
1 Linnet R C Tutcher (Bristol)
2 Simon J L Linford (Birmingham)

3 Colin G Newman (Tilehurst)
4 Anna E Sherwood (Calcot)
5 Matthew N Jerome (Kent)
6 Julian O Howes (Bristol) (C)
First peal on Ringing Room.
Rung with simulated sound and keyboard input.

👁 130

Society of Cambridge Youths

Orwell, Cambridgeshire
59 Town Green Road
Saturday, 4 July 2020 in 3h7

(14 in D)

5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by D J Pipe
1-2 Henry J W Pipe
3-4 Jonathan A Agg
5-6 David J Pipe (C)
7-8 Elizabeth A Orme
9-10 William T Bosworth
11-12 Alfred G W Pipe
Socially distanced in the Orme garden. A few spots of rain at various intervals and some rumblings of thunder but nowhere near enough to dampen the band's will to succeed! First on 12 since lockdown.

👁 65

Guild of St Cuileáin

Reading, Berkshire
26 Redlands Road
Tuesday, 30 June 2020
in 2h20 (11 in G)

5024 Spliced Surprise

Major (4m)
Contains 1344 Glasgow; 1248 London; 1216 Belfast, Bristol; 114 com; atw.
Composed by R R Horton
1-2 Janet E John
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Graham A C John
7-8 Jack E Page (C)

👁 27

Guild of St Cuileáin

Bosham, West Sussex
Little Creed Cottage,
Green Lane
Sunday, 28 June 2020
in 4m (16)

111 Stedman Triples

1-2 Graham G Firman (C)
3-4 Katharine J Firman
5-6 Rosie Robot
7-8 Richie Robot
To see the robots in action, click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XbW8z3lqW8>

👁 27

Society of Cambridge Youths

Ringing Room, Cambridgeshire
Tuesday, 30 June 2020 in 67m

1344 Bristol Surprise

Maximus

Composed by WHWH
1 Lesley H M Boyle
2 David J Pipe (C)
3 Patrick L H Brooke
4 Henry J W Pipe
5 Elizabeth A Orme
6 Jimmy L Yeoman
7 Alfred G W Pipe
8 Luke T W Smith
9 Stephen A Croxall
10 Jonathan A Agg
11 Phillip J Wilding
12 Phillip M Orme
By a local band
Scored at the first attempt!

👁 22



peals@ringingworld.co.uk

KENT C.A.

BIRCHINGTON, Kent,
Waterloo Tower, Quex Park
Sat Jun 8 2019 3h13 (15)
5088 Plain Bob Major

Comp. R Bailey
1 Cathryn M Hills
2 Peter R Russell
3 Douglas Neve
4 Claire Stave
5 Benjamin J H Legg
6 Mark Chittenden-Pile
7 Michael J Little
8 Andrew M Hills (C)

To mark the 200th anniversary
of the 1st peal on the bells.
1st in m: 4.5.

LANCASHIRE ASSN

BURNLEY, Lancs, St Peter
Sun Mar 8 2020 3h4 (18)
5091 Stedman Caters

Comp. A J Rawlinson
1 Pauline Campling
2 James E Andrews
3 Geoffrey R Gardner
4 R Owen Battye
5 Ashley B Wilson
6 Peter L Furniss
7 Andrew J Rawlinson (C)
8 Simon D Woof
9 George H Campling
10 Ian G Campbell
For Evensoing.
100th on the bells: 4.

Handbell Peals

CHESTER D.G.

WILMSLOW, Ches,
9 Hawthorn Lane
Tue Jun 23 2020 2h40 (15)

5120 Kent TB Royal
Comp. G A C John
1-2 J David Atkinson
3-4 Paul B Hunter
5-6 Peter C Randall (C)
7-8 David W Friend
9-10 James S Croft
In memory of Betty Hudson,
mother-in-law of 9-10. **£2.50**

LINCOLN D.G.

WILLINGHAM BY STOW,
Lincs, 14 High St (garden)
Tue Jun 23 2020 1h50 (11)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Susan A Faulk
3-4 A Robin Heppenstall
5-6 Christopher J Sharp (C)
Celebrating a return to
handbell ringing. **£1.50**

OXFORD D.G.

READING, Berks,
15 Lytham End, Tilehurst
Thu Jun 25 2020 2h19 (15)

5056 Cambridge S Major
Comp. Charles Middleton
1-2 June D Wells
3-4 Kenneth R Davenport
5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C)
7-8 E John Wells **£2**

STANFORD IN THE VALE,
Oxon, 24 Spencers Close
Tue Jun 23 2020 2h48 (10)

5104 Plain Bob Major
Comp. D L Thomas (No.469)
1-2 Lindsay Powell
3-4 Joe D R Norton
5-6 David L Thomas (C)
7-8 Lisa Ryan
1st in hand at 1st attempt: 7-8.
1st peal on the bells, with
thanks to Tony Crabtree for the
use of them.
1st at this address.

GUILD OF ST CUILEÁIN

GREAT HOCKHAM, Norfolk,
Manor Cottage
Sun Jun 21 2020 2h25 (15)

5056 Cambridge S Major
Comp. C Middleton
(Johnson's var.)
1-2 Louis P H Suggett
3-4 David Kemp
5-6 Simon A Rudd
7-8 Michael G Purday (C)
A compliment to David Brown
& Gill Knox on their wedding
anniversary. **£2**

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Mon Jun 22 2020 1h50 (8)

5040 Delight Minor
(7m: Glastonbury, Burslem, Taxal,
Humber, Canterbury, Burnaby, Bedford)
1-2 Colin G Newman
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Jack E Page (C)
In memory of those killed in
the recent attack in Forbury
Gardens & thinking of those
still affected. All 3 victims were
known to 1-2.

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Tue Jun 23 2020 2h8 (12)

5024 Spliced S Major
(6m: 992 each London, Superlative;
832 Bristol; 900 each Cambridge,
Glasgow, 608 Belfast. 124 com, atv)
Comp. G A C John
1-2 Janet E John
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Graham A C John
7-8 Jack E Page (C)
2,000th unstimulated peal: 5-6.

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Sat Jun 23 2020 2h16 (8)

5760 Spliced S Minor
(41m: 240 each Bacup, Bamboorough,
Carlisle, Lightfoot, Rossendale,
Warkworth, Westminster, 120
each Allendale, Alnwick, Annale's
London, Benwick, Beverley, Bourne,
Cambridge, Canterbury, Chester,
Coldstream, Cuneacstre, Durham,
Hexham, Hull, Ipswich, Kelso,
Lincoln, London, Morpeth, Munden,
Netherseale, Newcastle, Norfolk,
Northumberland, Norwich, Primrose,
Sandiacre, Stamford, Surfleet,
Wearmouth, Wells, Whitley, Wooler,
York. 239 com, atw with a change of
front- & back-work every lead)
Comp. J S Warboys (SU0801)
1-2 Colin G Newman
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Jack E Page (C)

GREAT HOCKHAM, Norfolk,
Manor Cottage
Sun Jun 28 2020 2h25 (15)

5056 Spliced S Major
(8m: 832 Rutland; 768 Pudsey;
640 Superlative; 576 each Bristol,
Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London;
512 Yorkshire. 122 com)
Comp. D F Morrison (No.3)
1-2 David Kemp
3-4 David C Brown
5-6 Simon A Rudd
7-8 Michael G Purday (C) **£2**

SOCIETY OF STOWMARKET YOUTHS

BACTON, Suffolk,
2 Pretymen Avenue
Sun Jun 28 2020 1h39 (16)

5040 Spliced S Minor
(33m: (1) Lightfoot, Rossendale,
Annale's London, Netherseale,
Stamford, Wearmouth; (2) Norwich,
Queen Mary, King Edward,
Westminster, Allendale, Fryerning;
(3) Beverley, Surfleet, Hexham,
Benwick, Durham, York; (4)
Cambridge, Primrose, Hull, Bourne,
Ipswich, Norfolk; (5) London, Wells,
Cunecastre; (6) Lincoln, Coldstream,
Redbourn; (7) Carlisle, Chester,
Munden)
1-2 Cherril C Spiller
3-4 Jeremy W Spiller (C)
5-6 Louis P H Suggett

Use
BellBoard
to submit
performances



quarters@ringingworld.co.uk

In Memoriam

Beeston, Notts. (21, Cedar Avenue) 19 Jun, 1280
Spl Major (2m): Michael Garle 1-2, Christopher J
Field 3-4, Ian Vincent 5-6, Tim Poole (C) 7-8. Rung
in memory of Geoffrey Lancaster (1932-2020), father-in-
law of 1-2. **£2**

Bicknoller, Som. 16 Mar, 1260 PB Doubles: Jane
Grellier 1, Martin J Blazey 2, Mark Philipson (C) 3,
Gary Sears 4, Andrew Harrison 5, Mike Andersen 6. In
memorial: Peggy Chandler, long time resident of this
village. 1st Q: 6. 1st inside: 5.

Bleadon, Som. 25 Mar 2009, 1260 Doubles
(1p/4m/1v): David Gay 1, Sally Lawrence 2, Valerie
Stone (C) 3, John West 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Martin
Blazey 6. In memorial: Ian Billinge, former Vice-
Chairman of the Dunster Branch.

Brompton Ralph, Som. 26 Jan 2015, 1260 Doubles
(11m): Bryan Williams 1, Ray Jones (C) 2, Kay Smith 3,
John Parsons 4, Martin Blazey 5, John Boorman 6. In
Memorial Derek Beale.

Butcombe, Som. 14 Sep 2015, 1260 Blackrod Bob
Minor: Valerie Stone 1, Kay Smith 2, Ray Jones 3, John
Parsons 4, Martin Blazey 5, John Boorman (C) 6. In
memorial: Preb. Henry Warren, former Master of the
B & W D A. 1st in m for all.

Crowcombe, Som. 28 Mar 2009, 1260 Doubles
(1p/2m): Jon Rose 1, Susan Mew 2, William Willans (C)
3, Rachel Billinge 4, Martin Blazey 5, Richard Anderson
6. In memorial: Ian Billinge, former Tower Captain at
Crowcombe. 1st Q: 6.

Fiddington, Som. 24 Nov 2014, 1260 Doubles
(7m): Ray P Jones 1, W John Parsons 2, Valerie Stone
(C) 3, Martin J Blazey 4, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 5,
Kay Smith 6. In Memorial. Rung half-muffled for the
memorial service for David William Joslin.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH D.G.

AWBRIDGE, Hants,
Clock House Garden
Sun Jun 14 2020 2h (8)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
Comp. R Roan
1-2 John A Dodd
3-4 Janet L Morris
5-6 Roy LeMarechal (C)
A socially distanced patio
peal by members of the
Bishopstoke local band.

AWBRIDGE, Hants,
Clock House Garden
Wed Jun 24 2020 2h (8)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
(7 diff exts)
1-2 John A Dodd
3-4 Maureen J Hanney
5-6 Frank R Morton (C)
Birthday compliment to Teddy
Hanney, 6 today.
Completes the calendar to
peals: 1-2. **£1.50**

Unattributed to a guild, society or association

LOWER BROADHEATH,
Worcs, Greencroft House
Thu Jun 25 2020 2h39 (12)

5040 Cambridge S Royal
Comp. Peter Border
1-2 Adam R Crocker
3-4 David Jenkins
5-6 Alex F Byrne (C)
7-8 Mark Regan
9-10 Malcolm P Taylor

Middlewich, Ches. (Rolt Crescent) 24 Jun, 1272 PB
Minimus: Helen Knight (C) 1-2, Stephen R Knight 3-4.
Dedicated to the memory of Mrs Margaret Leather, who
passed away peacefully this afternoon. Margaret will
be sadly missed by her friends & the church community
of St Helen, Witton. Our thoughts & prayers are with
Liz, Simon & Grace at this sad time. **£1**

Sheffield, S Yorks. (22 Kingsley Park Avenue) 25
Jun, 1344 PB Major: Judith M Reading 1-2, Stephen
J Hall (C) 3-4, James S Croft 5-6, Simon J Reading
7-8. In the garden in memorial Arthur Talbot & Ron
Johnston. 1st in hand for over 30 years: 7-8. **£2**

Tonbridge, Kent. (2A Cranford Road) 22 Jun,
1260 PB Minor: Ann Jenner 1-2, Ray Taylor 3-4,
Stanley Jenner (C) 5-6. In affectionate memory of Ron
Diserens. **£3**

Please email the Editor (editor@ringingworld.co.uk) if you think In Memoriam performances should be held from publication pending an obituary.

Method named

The following method is believed to have been rung
for the first time.

Charlton Kings, Glos. (4 Ashley Close – The Bicycle
Ring On Tour V2) 22 Jun, 1260 **Socially-Distanced
Bob Minor**: Isabel Hitchings 1, Mike Hartley 2, Barbara
Pettit 3, Ben Gooch 4, Stuart Tomlinson 5, Reg
Hitchings (C) 6. Socially Isolating Version. Believed to
be the first blows in m: pn 56.1456.56.1236.34.56.12.
If this is correct the band wish to name it 'Socially-
Distanced Bob Minor'.

Miscellaneous performances

Hayes, Kent. (The Study, Everard Avenue) 22 Jun,
528 Singles and Minimus (2m): Graham Long 1-2,
Graham D Long 3-4. Rung four-in-hand to celebrate the
birth of our first grandchild, Rachel Joy Long, born at
PRUH, Orpington, Kent, on Monday 8th June 2020. **£1**

Oxford, Oxon. (S Matthew's, Grandpont) 24 Jun, 60
Plain Hunt Minor: Gregory Colyer 1-2, John G Pusey
(C) 3-4, Evan Colyer 5-6. Rung on the forecourt of
the church when reopened for private prayer after the
Covid restrictions. **£1.50**

Distributed quarters

Aston-on-Clun & Presteigne, Shrops & Powys. 24
Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Alex Sharpe 1-2, Helen Sharpe
3-4, Lynn Scales (C) 5-6. 1st on handbells: 1-2, 3-4.
1st on handbells as C. Very, very belated engagement
compliment to James Ramsbottom & Casey McLellan.
Rung via Facebook Messenger. Alex & Helen shipped
a pair of the somewhat heavy Clun handbells to Lynn
at the beginning of April & the adventure began. Neither
Alex nor Helen had rung methods on handbells & Lynn
had some very limited experience from several years
ago. After meeting online 3 times a week & 12 weeks
after our first session the Q was rung in grand style
& came round in less than an hour. Just. Once we
can ring together "in person" I'm sure we'll ring much
quicker. **£1.50**

Kington & Presteigne, Herefs & Powys. 25 Jun,
1344 Alliance Minimus (4m): Geoff Cowling (C) 1-2,
Lynn Scales 3-4. Belated Birthday compliment to Geoff
Cowling. Rung via Facebook Messenger. **£1**

Ringling Room, Devon. (Plymouth) 31 May, 1260
PB Doubles: Christine Harris 1, Elena L Brake 2, Alena
J Wardle 3, Daniel T Calvert (C) 4, Fergus M S Tracey
5, Trevor C F Vercoe 6. 1st virtual Q for all.

Ringling Room, UK. 21 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Simon
J O Head (Bletchley, Bucks) 1-2, Craig M Robertson
(Dunfermline, Fife) 3-4, David L Thomas (Abingdon,
Oxon) (C) 5-6. 1st in 'hand': 1-2.

Ringling Room, UK. 21 Jun, 1272 Kent TB Minor:
Lisa Ryan (Stanford in the Vale, Oxon) 1-2, Samuel M
Senior (Southampton) 3-4, David L Thomas (Abingdon,
Oxon) (C) 5-6.

Ringling Room, UK. 24 Jun, 1344 Superlative S
Major: Craig M Robertson (Dunfermline, Fife) 1-2,
David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 3-4, Jonathan
C Mills (Oxford) 5-6, Samuel M Senior (Southampton)
7-8. 250th as C.

Ringling Room, USA. 19 Jun, 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Sarah Moriarty (Eastham, MA) 1, Katarina Whimsy! (Somerville, MA) 2, Austin J Paul (Boston, MA) 3, Austin J Paul (Boston, MA) 4, Elaine M Hansen (Foxborough, MA) (C) 5, Elaine M Hansen (Foxborough, MA) (C) 6. Juneteenth! 1st S: 2. **£4**

Distributed miscellaneous performance

Ringling Room. 23 Jun, 50 PB Minor: Amber Clarke 1, Elizabeth Walker 2, Helen Shipton 3, Edward Barnaby 4, Tim Barnaby 5, Roman E Sadowski 6. Conclusion to the Ross-on-Wye virtual Tuesday night practice! **£1.50**

General quarters

Cheltenham, Glos. (25a Alma Road – The Bicycle Ring On Tour V2) 25 Jun, 1260 Shetland Bob Minor: Isabel Hitchings 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Mike Hartley 3, Ben Gooch 4, Reg Hitchings (C) 5, Stuart Tomlinson 6. Socially Isolating Version. 1st blows in m for all. 550th together: 2-5.

Alderney, Channel Is. (Wells House) 24 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Peter J R Bevis (C) 1-2, Helen M McGregor 3-4, Aaron Hallett 5-6. 1st in hand at first attempt: 5-6. Rung on the C's 65th Birthday. **£1.50**

Aston Rowant, Oxon. (The White House) 22 Jun, 1260 Stedman Triples: Angela Darvill 1-2, Patricia Newton 3-4, Kenneth Darvill 5-6, Robert Newton (C) 7-8. **£2**

Aston Rowant, Oxon. (The White House) 26 Jun, 1312 Kent TB Major: Christopher Tuckett 1-2, Patricia Newton 3-4, Robert Newton (C) 5-6, Janet Menhinick 7-8. **£2**

Barrington, Som. (BVM) 23 Feb 2015, 1260 Junction Bob Minor: Bryan Williams 1, Kay Smith 2, Ray Jones 3, John Parsons 4, John Boorman 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 1,250th Q: 5.

Beeston, Notts. (17, Coniston Road) 22 Jun, 1312 Kent TB Major: Michael Garle 1-2, Roger J Lawson 3-4, Tom Langton 5-6, Tim Poole (C) 7-8. 1st in hand for a while: 3-4. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. (21, Cedar Avenue) 1 Mar, 1280 Spl S Major (2m): Esther Brown 1-2, Christian J Brown 3-4, Ian Vincent 5-6, Tim Poole (C) 7-8. 500th Q: 3-4. Birthday compliments to 1-2. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. (21, Cedar Avenue) 23 Jun, 1280 Kent TB Major: Emily E Hall 1-2, Christopher J Field 3-4, Ian Vincent 5-6, Christian J Brown (C) 7-8. Birthday compliments to Sonia Field, mother of 3-4. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. (21, Cedar Avenue) 9 Jun, 1344 Yorkshire S Major: Esther Brown 1-2, Christian J Brown 3-4, Ian Vincent 5-6, Tim Poole (C) 7-8. Rung in the garden. 1st for a while for all. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. (41, Haddon Crescent) 20 Jun, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Esther Brown 1-2, Christian J Brown 3-4, Tom Langton 5-6, Tim Poole (C) 7-8. 1st at the venue. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. 1 Mar, 1280 Bristol S Royal: Bridget Eickhoff 1, Kathryn Smith 2, Tom Langton 3, Tim Poole (C) 4, Evie Newton 5, Leah Wignell 6, Ian Vincent 7, Estella J Haynes 8, Christian J Brown 9, Emily E Hall 10. 1st Bristol S Royal: 5,8. **£5**

Bovey Tracey, Devon. (Sorrento) 21 Jun, 1272 Spl S Minor (6m): Jill Wigney 1-2, Peter Richards 3-4, Mike Wigney (C) 5-6. **£1.50**

Bovey Tracey, Devon. (Sorrento) 23 Jun, 1296 Spl S Minor (12m): Jill Wigney 1-2, Tim Bayton (C) 3-4, Mike Wigney 5-6.

Brompton Ralph, Som. 19 Sep 2009, 1260 PB Doubles: Robert Yandle 1, Mark Woollen 2, Carol Chamberlain 3, Martin Blazey 4, Bob Parker (C) 5, Adrian Armstrong 6. Golden wedding compliment to Ken & Maureen Canney.

Brompton Regis, Som. 4 Jun 2002, 1260 Rising Brook Bob Minor: Alan Wilson 1, Joan Hopwood 2, Jane Lindsey 3, John West 4, Martin J Blazey 5, Michael Hatchett (C) 6.

Brompton Regis, Som. 4 Oct 2004, 1260 St Clement's CB Minor: Alan Wilson 1, Louise James 2, Martin J Blazey 3, Tim Kettle 4, John West 5, Michael Hatchett (C) 6.

Buckland St Mary, Som. 10 Nov 2014, 1260 Haylot Fell Bob Minor: Kay Smith 1, Ray Jones 2, Valerie Stone 3, John Parsons 4, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 250th together: 2,4.

Cannington, Som. 28 Jan 2015, 1260 Doubles (6m): John Parsons 1, Ray Jones (C) 2, Martin Blazey 3, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 4, Mark Philipson 5, Mike Blissett 6.

Carbis Bay, Corn. 8 Nov 2014, 1260 St Clement's C Bob M: Sue Campbell 1, Ray P Jones 2, W John Parsons 3, Alan Castell 4, Martin J Blazey 5, Clifford Nicholls (C) 6. Rung on the back six.

Carhampton, Som. 11 Oct 2009, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Alan Lewis 1, Jo Evans 2, Martin Blazey (C) 3, Emily Feldberg 4, Susan Mew 5, Jonathan Greenhow 6. 1st in m: 4. Rung as a Birthday compliment to 6. Special thanks to Jo for turning out at 15 minutes notice to make up the band.

Carhampton, Som. 27 Mar 2010, 1260 Rev Canterbury Doubles: Alan Lewis 1, John West 2, Emily Feldberg 3, Martin Blazey (C) 4, Susan Mew 5, Jonathan Greenhow 6. Tribute to Dick Pearce.

Carhampton, Som. 12 Jan 2015, 1260 Doubles (6m): Kay Smith 1, Bryan Williams 2, Valerie Stone (C) 3, Ray Jones 4, Martin Blazey 5, John Parsons 6. 750th Q: 6.

Chaffcombe, Som. 11 Jul 2016, 1260 Little Stukeley Bob Minor: Ray Jones 1, Kay Smith 2, Valerie Stone 3, John Parsons 4, Martin Blazey 5, John Boorman (C) 6. Wishing Pauline, partner of 1, a speedy recovery following her operation. 1st in m for all.

Cholsey, Oxon. (Celsea Cottage Garden) 23 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Mary C Friskney 1-2, Christopher M Tuckett 3-4, Robert A Partridge (C) 5-6. 1st Minor in hand: 1-2. 1st in hand for 33 years: 5-6. **£3**

Combe St Nicholas, Som. 10 Nov 2014, 1260 Buxton Bob Minor: Valerie Stone 1, Kay Smith 2, Ray Jones 3, John Parsons 4, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan (C) 5, Martin Blazey 6.

Compton Bishop, Som. 9 Feb 2015, 1260 Crewe Diesel Bob Minor: Bryan Williams 1, Kay Smith 2, Ray Jones 3, John Parsons 4, John Boorman 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. Good wishes to Gerry Brown for a speedy recovery.

Crowcombe, Som. 30 Sep 2009, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Jan Swan 1, Jo Evans 2, Chris Barnes 3, Martin Blazey 4, Jon Rose (C) 5, Rob Kennedy 6. Rung for the installation & induction of Revd Val Plumb, Rector of the Quantonk Towers Benefice.

Crowcombe, Som. 23 Jun 2014, 1260 Doubles (5m): Bryan Williams 1, Ray Jones 2, Yvonne Criddle (C) 3, John Parsons 4, Valerie Stone 5, Martin Blazey 6.

Darlington, Durham. (The Granary, 3 High Carlbury) 23 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Helen Scott 1-2, Chris Enzor (C) 3-4, Kate Millar 5-6. 1st Minor in hand: 1-2. **£1.50**

Durleigh, Som. 28 Jan 2015, 1260 Pilkington Bob Minor: Ray Jones 1, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 2, John Parsons 3, Mike Blissett 4, Mark Philipson 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

East Harptree, Som. 4 Mar, 1260 Ewyas Harold Bob Minor: Nicki J Lang 1, Ray Jones 2, Valerie Stone 3, John Parsons 4, Martin J Blazey 5, John Boorman (C) 6.

East Harptree, Som. 11 Jan 2016, 1260 Cors-Goch Glan Teifi Bob Minor: Bryan Williams 1, Ray Jones 2, Kay Smith 3, Valerie Stone 4, John Parsons 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 1st in m: 3,4,5.

Exeter, Devon. (The Villa, Cowick Lane (Garden)) 24 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Sue Sawyer 1-2, Lynne Hughes 3-4, James Kirkcaldy (C) 5-6. First, on handbells, at this address. Possibly the first on the bells. **£1.50**

Exford, Som. 27 Apr 2015, 1260 Festiniog Bob Minor: John Parsons 1, Ray Jones 2, Valerie Stone 3, John Boorman 4, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 200th together for 1 & 3. 1st in m for all.

Fiddington, Som. 23 Nov 2009, 1260 St Clement's C Bob Minor: Alan Edwards 1, Sally Lawrence 2, Valerie Stone 3, Bryan Williams 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

Goathurst, Som. 25 Jan 2014, 1260 Double Boothby Graffoe Bob M: Bryan Williams 1, Lesley Tucker 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Matthew Weighell 4, Neil Williams 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

Harpford, Devon. 13 Jun 2016, 1260 Gorefield Bob Minor: Bryan Williams 1, Ray Jones 2, Valerie Stone 3, John Parsons 4, John Boorman 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 1st in m for all.

Hendon. (26 Sunningfields Rd) 21 Jun, 1320 Minimus (11m): Martin Clode (C) 1-2, Fiona Clode 3-4. Rung for Father's Day & remembering our fathers whose Birthdays were 22 & 23 June. **£1**

Holford, Som. 4 Feb 2015, 1260 Double Burton Pedwardine Bob Minor: John Parsons 1, Ray Jones 2, John Boorman 3, Mark Philipson 4, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

Holford, Som. 24 Nov 2014, 1260 Whitchurch Bob Minor: Martin Blazey 1, Kay Smith 2, Ray P Jones 3, W John Parsons 4, Valerie Stone 5, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan (C) 6. Birthday compliment to Ray Jones.

Huish Champflower, Som. 15 Jun 2002, 1260 Rev Canterbury Pleasure Pl Doubles: Alan Wilson 1, Valerie Boyce 2, Alan Lee (C) 3, Anne Stenning 4, Martin J Blazey 5, Brian Samuels 6.

Kewstoke, Som. 17 Mar 2010, 1260 Doubles (1p/3m): Sally Lawrence 1, David Gay 2, Valerie Stone (C) 3, John West 4, Bryan Williams 5, Martin Blazey 6. Birthday compliment to Anne Stenning (HLM), former Secretary to the Dunster Branch.

Kirby Muxloe, Leics. (Bloods Hill) 27 Jun, 1260 Minor (2m): Jo L White 1-2, Lewis D Benfield 3-4, Mark J Pendery (C) 5-6. Belated Birthday compliment to 5-6 & Birthday compliment to Marion Pegge of Anstey, 21 again! **£1.50**

Langford Budville, Som. 8 Dec 2014, 1260 Doubles (5m): Valerie Stone 1, Bryan Williams 2, Martin J Blazey 3, Raymond P Jones 4, W John Parsons (C) 5, Kay Smith 6.

Lelant, Corn. 7 Nov 2014, 1260 Doubles (11m): Sue Campbell 1, W John Parsons 2, Ray P Jones 3, Martin J Blazey 4, Clifford Nicholls (C) 5, Alan Castell 6.

Locking, Som. 13 Oct 2014, 1260 Foti Place Bob Minor: Valerie Stone 1, Ray Jones 2, John Parsons 3, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 4, John Boorman 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

Ludgvan, Corn. 7 Nov 2014, 1260 Doubles (6m): Martin J Blazey 1, Betty Rawlings 2, W John Parsons 3, Alan Castell 4, Clifford Nicholls (C) 5, Ray P Jones 6.

Lydeard St Lawrence, Som. 17 Mar 2001, 1260 New Borough Doubles: Jane Lindsey 1, Margaret Gillaed 2, Anne Stenning (C) 3, John West 4, Martin J Blazey 5, Colin Gillard 6.

Lymphsham, Som. 25 Mar 2009, 1260 St Clement's CB Minor: Sally Lawrence 1, David Gay 2, John West 3, Valerie Stone 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. Rung as a compliment to Bryan & Heather Williams on the occasion of their son Paul being consecrated as Bishop of Kensington.

Lymphsham, Som. 13 Oct 2014, 1272 Cambridge S Minor: Ray Jones 1, Valerie Stone 2, John Boorman 3, Martin Blazey 4, John Parsons 5, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan (C) 6. 2,990th Q: 2.

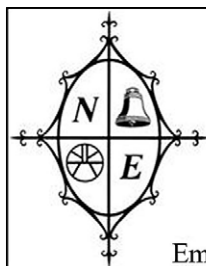
Middlewich, Ches. (Roit Crescent) 21 Jun, 1272 Rev Bob Minimus: Helen Knight (C) 1-2, Stephen R Knight 3-4. For Fathers Day. **£1**

Middlewich, Ches. (Roit Crescent) 22 Jun, 1272 Minimus (2m): Helen Knight (C) 1-2, Stephen R Knight 3-4. **£1**

Nether Stowey, Som. 23 Nov 2009, 1260 Doubles (5m): Alan Edwards 1, Sally Lawrence 2, Valerie Stone (C) 3, Bryan Williams 4, Martin Blazey 5, Terry Hargreaves 6.

North Perrott, Som. 24 Mar 2010, 1260 PB Minor: David Gay 1, Sally Lawrence 2, John West 3, Martin Blazey 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Michael Hatchett (C) 6.

North Petherton, Som. 25 Jan 2014, 1260 Doubles (3m): Lesley Tucker 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Bryan Williams 3, Martin Blazey 4, Matthew Weighell (C) 5, Graham Tucker 6.



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Nynehead, Som. 19 Dec 2009, 1260 Doubles (1p/3m): Leonard A England 1, Mike Callow 2, Martin Blazey 3, Alan Lee 4, Fred Sage (C) 5, Mervyn Baker 6.

Oxford, Oxon. (40 Western Road) 22 Jun, 1272 Gainsborough Little Bob Major: Lindsay Powell 1-2, David L Thomas (C) 3-4, Joe Norton 5-6, John G Pusey 7-8. 1st in m: 5-6,7-8.

Oxford, Oxon. (Grandpont Nature Park) 22 Jun, 1260 PB Royal: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, John G Pusey 7-8, Michele Winter 9-10. 1st Royal away from the tenors: 1-2. Rung as an engagement compliment to Owen Winter & Rose Spencer.

Oxford, Oxon. (Port Meadow) 20 Jun, 1272 Gainsborough Little Bob Major: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Adam D Rebick 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Lisa Ryan 7-8. 1st with suspected broken toe: 3-4. Wants first in m to note: 3-4.

Oxford, Oxon. (Port Meadow) 20 Jun, 1312 PB Major: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Adam D Rebick 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Lisa Ryan 7-8. 50th together: 1-2,7-8.

Pitminster, Som. 15 Feb 2007, 1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles: Pat Lee 1, Reg Colman 2, Dennis Whatmore 3, Martin J Blazey (C) 4, Reg Lee 5, Jeremy Dugdale 6.

Ratby, Leics. (Windy Ridge) 27 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Mark P Banner 1-2, Rebecca M Banner 3-4, Phillip S George (C) 5-6. June Birthday compliments to three generations of the family. **£1.50**

Ratby, Leics. (Windy Ridge) 27 Jun, 1260 PB Minor: Sheila J George 1-2, Phillip S George (C) 3-4, Rebecca M Banner 5-6. June Birthday compliments to three generations of the family. **£1.50**

Reading, Berks. (15 Lytham End, Tilehurst) 22 Jun, 1280 Cambridge S Major: John Wells 1-2, June Wells 3-4, Bernard Groves (C) 5-6, Stephen Rossiter 7-8. Remembering those who died or injured & the families in the stabbings in Reading. **£2**

Sampford Brett, Som. 14 Apr 1998, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Anne Stenning 1, John Levin 2, Joan Hopwood 3, Martin J Blazey 4, Keith Beale (C) 5, Alan Wilson 6. On the occasion of the retirement of Revd Malcolm Bole.

Sampford Brett, Som. 16 Jul 2002, 1320 Luton S Minor: Anne Stenning 1, Jane Lindsey 2, Martin J Blazey 3, Bryan Williams 4, Michael Hatchett 5, Ray Baker (C) 6.

Sampford Brett, Som. 1 Jan 2010, 1260 PB Doubles: Robert Yandle 1, Jan Swan (C) 2, Martin Blazey 3, Jo Evans 4, Chris Evans 5, Susan Mew 6. 1st as C. Rung as a 60th Birthday compliment to Phil Swan, husband of 2.

Sampford Brett, Som. 15 Jan 2012, 1260 PB Doubles: Jan Swan 1, Emily Feldberg 2, Tom Mitchell 3, Chris Mitchell 4, Martin Blazey (C) 5, Susan Mew 6. 1st inside: 4.

Sampford Brett, Som. 18 Mar 2012, 1260 Rev Canterbury Doubles: Susan Mew 1, Carol Eastaugh 2, Tom Mitchell 3, Jan Swan 4, Martin Blazey (C) 5, Chris Mitchell 6. 1st in m: 2. Wishing Anthea Swan (mother-in-law to 4) a speedy recovery to full mobility.

Sampford Brett, Som. 29 Dec 2014, 1260 PB Minor: Charis Armstrong 1, Jan Swan 2, Jo Evans 3, Chris Evans 4, Tom Mitchell 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 1st Minor: 1. Rung to congratulate Tom on gaining his Queen's Scout Award.

Sampford Brett, Som. 11 Dec 2014, 1260 Doubles (5m): Chris Mitchell 1, Susan Mew 2, Jan Swan 3, Tom Mitchell 4, Martin Blazey (C) 5.

Sampford Brett, Som. 26 Jan 2015, 1320 Cambridge S M: Kay Smith 1, Bryan Williams 2, Ray Jones 3, John Boorman 4, John Parsons 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6. 600th Q: 3.

Sampford Brett, Som. 18 Jan 2015, 1260 St Martin's Bob Doubles: Jan Swan 1, Chris Mitchell 2, Julie Oliver 3, Liz McConnell 4, Martin Blazey (C) 5, Tom Mitchell 6. 1st in m: 2,3.

Sampford Brett, Som. 15 Feb 2015, 1260 PB Doubles: Jan Swan 1, Martin Blazey 2, Tom Mitchell 3, Charis Armstrong 4, Mark Philipson (C) 5, Chris Mitchell 6. 1st inside: 4.

Sampford Brett, Som. 24 Jun 2014, 1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles: Sue Wolters 1, Susan Mew 2, Julie Oliver 3, Jan Swan 4, Martin Blazey (C) 5, John West 6. Wishing Peter Tudball a speedy recovery.

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Selworthy, Som. 22 Jun 2009, 1260 Doubles (4m): John Sparks 1, Sue Atkins 2, Colin Stevenson 3, Martin Blazey (C) 4, Andrew Palk 5. Birthday compliment to Sue & a welcome to Revd Bill Lemmey, Rector of Porlock with Porlock Weir, Stoke Pero, Selworthy & Luccombe.

St Buryan, Corn. 8 Nov 2014, 1260 PB Minor: Ray P Jones 1, Alan Castell 2, W John Parsons 3, Martin J Blazey 4, Sam Nankervis 5, Clifford Nicholls (C) 6.

St Decuman's, Watchet, Som. 12 Jan 2015, 1260 Doubles (6m): Bryan Williams (C) 1, Kay Smith (C) 2, Valerie Stone (C) 3, Ray Jones (C) 4, John Parsons (C) 5, Martin Blazey 6. Jointly conducted by 1,2,3,4,5.

Tewkesbury, Glos. (The Shed) 21 Jun, 1440 PB Minimus: David Bagley (R H) 1, David Bagley (L H) 2, Rachel Bagley (C) 3, Ruth Bagley 4. Longest length of minimus for all. For Fathers Day. To mark the 40th anniversary of David's first peal, rung at Upton on Severn on 21st June 1980. **£4**

Thurloxton, Som. 23 Feb 2005, 1260 Doubles (3m): Roger Leighton 1, Gilbert Davies 2, Sally Lawrence 3, Valerie Stone (C) 4, Martin J Blazey 5.

Waltham Abbey, Essex. 8 Mar, 1260 PB Doubles: Hilary C Walls 1, Susan John 2, Jane Walters 3, Dave Knott (C) 4, Margaret French 5, Perry French 6. For International Women's Day. **£3**

Weare, Som. 9 Feb 2015, 1260 Doubles (6m): Kay Smith 1, Bryan Williams 2, Ray Jones 3, Martin Blazey 4, John Parsons (C) 5, John Boorman 6. Congratulations to John & Lesley Boorman as they celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Wellington, New Zealand. (Cathedral) 21 Jun, 1296 Appleby S Minor: Janet Grocott 1, Philippa Bowron 2, Ruth Lightbourne 3, Christopher Jarman 4, Dylan Thomas 5, Derek Williams (C) 6. **£2**

Wellington, Rockwell Green, Som. (All Saints) 8 Dec 2014, 1260 Cockerhill Bob Minor: Bryan Williams 1, Kay Smith 2, Valerie Stone 3, Raymond P Jones 4, W John Parsons 5, Martin J Blazey (C) 6.

Wembdon, Som. 10 Mar 2010, 1260 Doubles (5m): David Gay 1, Valerie Stone (C) 2, John West 3, Martin Blazey 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Bryan Williams 6.

West Quantoxhead, Som. 4 Feb 2015, 1296 Beverley S Minor: Ray Jones 1, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan 2, Martin Blazey 3, John Parsons 4, Mark Philipson 5, John Boorman (C) 6.

West Quantoxhead, Som. 11 Jan 2015, 1260 St Clement's C Bob M: Tom Mitchell 1, Jan Swan 2, Chris Mitchell 3, Susan Mew 4, Martin Blazey 5, Mark Philipson (C) 6. To mark the 90th Birthday of Dr Winifred Anderson, MBE, former chairman of the Dunster Branch, Bath & Wells DACR. 1st in m: 3.

West Quantoxhead, Som. 31 Jan 2015, 1260 Childwall Bob Minor: Tom Mitchell 1, Jan Swan 2, Liz McConnell 3, Martin Blazey 4, Mark Philipson (C) 5, Don Hobson 6. 1st in m: 2,3,5,6.

West Quantoxhead, Som. 29 Sep, 1260 PB Minor: Sara Coward 1, Jane Grellier 2, Susan Mew 3, Tom Mitchell 4, Martin J Blazey 5, Mark Philipson (C) 6. 1st Minor inside: 2. Jane has now completed Level Five in the Learning the Ropes scheme.

West Worlington, Devon. 2 Sep 2009, 1260 PB Minor: Sally Lawrence 1, John West 2, David Gay 3, John Pidgeon 4, Terry Hargreaves 5, Martin Blazey (C) 6.

Wokingham, Berks. (2 Murdoch Road) 20 Jun, 1264 PB Major: John A Harrison 1-2, Adrian P Nash 3-4, David G Maynard (C) 5-6, Neil G Curnow 7-8. Rung on the lawn. **£2**

Cambridge, but not as we know it!

The quarter rung on 23rd June for the St Thomas' Society on Ringing Room looks pretty unremarkable at first glance. The length is a little strange, however, being 55½ leads of Surprise Minor and the description "Variable Hunt (New Start)" suggests something even stranger!

It owes its origin to an OUSCR peal attempt at Kingham some time in the academic year 1985–86 where the band met one short. Since it was a long wait for the next train back to Oxford, the pubs were closed and we had the use of the bells, we decided to do some six-bell ringing. One idea we had was to ring Cambridge Minor but to spice it up by randomly restarting it in the middle of the lead. It was fun, but really quite challenging (both to ring and to try getting round). I recall we called it "Kingham variation".

Occasionally it was brought out and dusted off at OUS events, usually just after lunch, but never developed much further. Over the years however there have been peals and quarters of "Variable Treble" Grandsire Triples and Caters in Birmingham and in Kent, and a couple of quarters of Surprise Major where half leads of a method have been followed by a restart.

So far as we know, however, the quarter peal on 23rd June was the first time it had been used in a performance in a method other than Grandsire where restarts part-way through a lead (i.e. not the lead-end or half-lead) had been used as the only calls. At least three of the band were in the original touches at Kingham so this quarter was unfinished business!

We still have no idea if anything like this had been done before 1985 and would be interested to know if anyone else experimented with change ringing on this plan before this.

PHILLIP BARNES

Platt, Kent

1332 New Start Cambridge Surprise Minor

Composed by Michael E Ovenden

Variable hunt (New Start): 1m, 23 restarts

123456

631542 [100]

236514 [6]

314652 [110]

213645 [6]

6-part. Numbers in brackets are the number of changes rung in the method before restarting from the row reached at that point.

Ringling Room. (UK) 23 Jun, 1332 New Start Cambridge S Minor (Variable hunt (New Start): 1m, 23 restarts): Andrew P Deamer (Wells) 1, Jeremy D Alford (Horsham) 2, Phillip R J Barnes (C - Platt) 3, Michael E Ovenden (Danbury) 4, Sandra Y Alford (Horsham) 5, Elizabeth A Barnes (Platt) 6. Probably the first Q of a single S Minor method without bobs or singles. A long project, with the ringers of 1,3 & 4 first having rung New Start Cambridge Minor for the first time after meeting short for a peal at Kingham, Oxon some time in 1985-6. Rung using keyboard control & simulated sound. **£3**



editor@ringingworld.co.uk

Terry Hargreaves 1940 – 2020



Terry Hargreaves was born at Botley in Hampshire in 1940. He attended secondary school at Winchester Grammar, and it was while he was travelling daily by train from Botley that he developed his love of railways. The journey involved a change of trains at Eastleigh, a key railway hub with plenty of interest; there was an engine shed and the Eastleigh railway works as well as plenty of mainline trains from Waterloo to Bournemouth and Weymouth. He went on to study Geography at Sheffield University.

Terry made his career in town planning, gaining his professional qualifications in his first post with Test Valley District Council in Hampshire. His career continued at Leek with Staffs Moorlands District, and finally at Tiverton, where he moved in 1989 to take up a post with Mid Devon District as a planning officer.

Terry learnt to ring in his teens at Curdridge, near Botley, and he rang at university in Sheffield, where he was a founder member of the University Guild of Ringers. On returning to Hampshire he became Tower Captain at the ring of eight at Curdridge. In Tiverton he initially joined the St Peter's band, but later made St Paul's his home tower where he rang for over 20 years. For ten years he was the Tower Captain there and a Ringing Master for the North East Branch of the Devon Guild for three years. Between 2000 and 2014 he rang over 300 quarter peals, mostly with a group of Somerset ringers, and was an enthusiastic visitor to other practice nights around the area. Although he did not ring many peals, he was especially proud to have rung one in February 2010 for Sheffield Universities Guild which marked the 50th anniversary of the first peal for the Guild, in which Terry also rang.

Terry also had an interest in bell maintenance work and he assisted with the Huntsham bell restoration project in 2004. In addition, he liked organising outings and longer ringing holidays. A weekend visit to his old Hampshire haunts which he arranged for Tiverton ringers in May 1994 was particularly memorable. He was notably active in arranging ringing in towers without regular bands for the Millennium on 1st January 2000.

Sadly, health issues eventually put a stop to his ringing as he began to be affected by Parkinson's and dementia from about 2015. Glen Morgan supported him in Tiverton as his partner and carer during his later years as his health deteriorated. In the last year of his life Glen and Terry's family felt he needed the constant care which only a care home could provide, and he entered Chelston Nursing Home near Wellington where he finally died on 27th April. Terry was married three times and leaves two daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren.

Other interests

Terry's great interest in and love of railways started as a schoolboy. In later years he visited many preserved lines and followed the steam excursions on West of England main line at Burlescombe. A great enthusiast for real ale, he was a member of CAMRA, held shares in Marston's Brewery and made sure that all outings and practice night visits ended in a pub somewhere. He enjoyed the "pub culture" and played skittles with the District Council team in and around Tiverton most weeks for over 25 years, often rushing from ringing a quarter peal on a Wednesday evening to take his turn in the skittle alley. He also enjoyed choral singing, belonging to the Sampford Peverell singers where he met John Kape, and persuaded him to return to ringing and join the St Paul's band.

As others saw Terry

"My main memory is of him being a super tower captain, who was always there and willing to listen and help when needed."

Many people have commented on Terry's quiet and unassuming manner, but willingness to help and professional and knowledgeable approach to both his work as a planning officer and as a ringer.

His slight eccentricities are also legendary. He liked to navigate on outings, from the back seat of the car, with an old out of date OS map (he had a vast collection of maps

covering the whole country), but he could be easily distracted by the route of a now disused railway. Sometimes the route he had planned would come to grief as the car encountered a motorway or other new road which wasn't on his 1930s vintage map. Meanwhile, Wilf Dunn might be sitting with his arms folded in the front seat, muttering "Well, I wouldn't have come this way."

On Christmas Days he avoided family gatherings and preferred to walk with a lone companion on Dartmoor or Exmoor with a packed lunch (unless he could find a pub which was open). Then after Christmas he would organise an outing on New Year's Day, saying we all needed the exercise after eating too much over Christmas, but then promptly ate a large pub lunch. If he could indulge his passion for pork pies or pickled eggs on these occasions, so much the better.

Terry was undoubtedly one of the very few people who possessed their own funeral bier!

I am indebted to Glen Morgan, Lynda Smith, Paul Mainwaring, John Kape and Mike Hatchett for their contributions to these memories.

LES BOYCE

Norman Mallett: a footnote

Norman Mallett achieved much in ringing in Devon, but one achievement I claimed on his behalf in his obituary, which appeared in the 3rd January issue of *The Ringing World*, was in error. In his peal book, given to me by Mariella to pass on to the Guild Library, is a page with the handwritten caption "Society of Roving Ringers, Stedman Cinques, Exeter Cathedral, Oct 1951." Below that are the names C Deem, M Chilcott, G Evenden, R Fry, J Hill, T M White, D Parsons, Jill Brittain, T Southam, J Diserens, N Mallett, J Chilcott, Mrs & Mr J Kingcott – more names than ropes for a peal of Cinques. Perhaps there was a strapper, and another ringer gatecrashed the photo.

The photograph that had accompanied the caption had mysteriously disappeared, but we had a clue: C Deem, and his home tower, Exmouth. Neil and Janet Deem were able to follow that lead. They contacted Chris Caryer, archivist for The Society of Roving Ringers, who made it clear that a peal was attempted but lost. Cyril Deem's diaries reveal that "it came to grief after 75 minutes when the ringer

Continued overleaf



The 1951 Roving Ringers peal attempt at Exeter Cathedral. Norman is 5th from the right



notices@ringingworld.co.uk

Rates from 1st January 2020

Ringing meeting notices

- **Approved accounts** 24p per word (min.17 words). Display £5.00 per col. cm.
- **Non-account** 28p per word (min.17 words). Display £6.00 per col. cm.

All other notices & advertising

- 66p per word (min.17 words). Display –
- B/W: £11.00 per col. cm.
- Colour: £15.40 per col. cm.
- Full page colour advert: £1,050.00
- Full page B/W advert: £750.00
- Half page colour advert: £530.00
- Half page B/W advert: £375.00

A discount of 10% will be made on the above rates for advertising in the paper at least monthly.

Loose leaf inserts £450 for 2,500 single A4 sheets supplied pre-printed. Contact 01264 366 620 for a printing quotation if required. Inserts will also be appended to the online copy of the RW.

All rates include VAT, registered charities may qualify for VAT exempt rates. Contact the RW admin team on 01264 366 620 for information.

Terms

The deadline for notices is **9am Thursday, 8 days before publication.**

Copy, with payment (except on approved accounts), must be received by the deadline.

Notices will also appear on *The Ringing World* website, www.ringingworld.co.uk.

The Editor may place display notices throughout the paper – if you would prefer your display notice to appear on the Notices page **please make that request known** when submitting the notice.

BellBoard ADVERTISING

Banner advertising rates start at **£64 for 1 month (5% coverage).** Please contact us for more details: bellboard@ringingworld.co.uk

Meetings on July 18

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. Virtual AGM to be held on Saturday 18 July 2020 at 10:30 on Zoom. Please contact gensec@wdcra.org.uk for joining details. 3001

Death notices

Notices reporting the death or funeral details of any ringers, or people well known to the wider ringing community, will be printed free of charge, up to a maximum of 30 words.

If you wish to exceed this limit, or print a second notice, our standard notice charges will apply. We accept notification of deaths up until 11.30am on press day (generally Tuesday) and always try hard to accommodate them.

Please email the Editor (editor@ringingworld.co.uk)

if you believe performances rung in memoriam should be held from publication pending an obituary.

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.

Norman Mallett *concluded from p.695*

of the 11th gave up”. Chris Caryer could do better than give details of the failed attempt; he was able to scan and send a copy of the missing photograph, a clipping from a press report. Norman’s peal book is now complete in that respect. He was very proud to have been a founder member of The Society of Roving Ringers, hence his inclusion in this photograph and my confusion. When a peal of Stedman Cinques was later scored at Exeter Cathedral by the Roving Ringers, Norman was unfortunately not in the band.

Having corrected that error, there is a series of omissions from the obituary. Mike Mears was able to add from his encyclopaedic knowledge of Devon peal ringing that Norman called the first peal of Yorkshire by a resident Guild band – that was at Heavitree on 25th January 1964. He called the first peal of Superlative which was at East Budleigh on 14th March 1964. He was also in the first peal of Surprise Major by a resident Guild band – Cambridge at Wolborough on 20th January 1956. A peal of Cambridge was rung at Wolborough on the 50th anniversary, and at that time Norman and John Scott were the only surviving members of the band. He also took part in the first peal of Surprise Royal by a resident Guild band – Cambridge on the front ten at Exeter Cathedral on 22nd September 1984. He had long since given up peal ringing when we rang the first Surprise Maximus by a resident Guild band (13th November 1993 at All Saints, Worcester).

Many thanks to Mike, Neil, Janet, Chris and – posthumously – Cyril for shedding light on these details of Norman’s significant contributions to ringing in Devon and further afield.

JOHN STEERE

BELL CROSSNUMBER PUZZLE SOLUTION (p.666)

Please note correction overleaf.

NUMBERS DOWN (LARGE LETTERS)	numbers down (small letters)
A 2 1 3 5 4	a 2 1 7 2
B 2 3 1 4 5	b 1 4 5 2 6 3
D 3 2 4 1 5	d 1 2 7 1 5 5
E 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	e 3 1
F 3 4 2 5 1	f 5 7
G 2 8	g 2 7 3
H 2 5	h 4 3 2 1 5
I 6 3	i 6 5 1
J 4 3 5 2 1	j 1 2 3 4 5 6
M 4 2	m 6 5 4 3 2 1
N 4 8 4	n 4 4 8
P 2 4 3	p 1 2 8
Q 8 1 8 1 8	q 9 1
R 6 1 1 6	r 1 4
S 4 4 1	s 1 1
T 1 9 9 1	t 1 9
U 1 8 1	u 8 4 4 8

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Registered Charity no. 270036

The 123rd Annual Meeting of the Council will be held by video conference (Zoom) on SATURDAY 5th September 2020 at 10am.

1. Nominations are invited for election as **President**. These should be signed by two Representative Members of the Council and, together with any supporting statements of up to 200 words (Standing Order C7.2 c)), must reach me by **25th July**.
2. Nominations are invited for election as **Deputy President**. These should be signed by two Representative Members of the Council and, together with any supporting statements of up to 200 words (Standing Order C7.2 c)), must reach me by **25th July**.
3. Nominations are invited for election as **Treasurer**. These should be signed by two Representative Members of the Council and, together with any supporting statements of up to 200 words (Standing Order C7.2 c)), must reach me by **25th July**.
4. Nominations are invited for election of up to two **Independent Examiners**. These should be signed by two Representative Members of the Council and, together with any supporting statements of up to 200 words (Standing Order C7.2 c)), must reach me by **25th July**.
5. Notices of Motion, also signed by two Council Members, together with any supporting statements of up to 200 words (Standing Order C2.1), must reach me by **25th July**.
6. The meeting will receive and consider the Annual Report of the Trustees and Accounts for 2019, and the Annual Report of the Executive and workgroups for 2019 and its Forward Plan and Budget for 2020.

A nomination form is available here: <https://ccabr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2020-meeting/>

Society secretaries are reminded that subscriptions for 2020, at £40 per representative to which the society is entitled, if not already paid, are now due and must be received by **25th July**. Society membership numbers must also be notified by **25th July**.

Unless already notified, please let me know of any changes of representatives or of their addresses and contact details since the last meeting.

MARY BONE, Secretary
secretary@ccabr.org.uk

3002

Central Council AGM

As Council members will see from the accompanying notice, this year’s Central Council annual meeting will be held on Saturday 5th September at 10am by video conference using Zoom. Several guilds have already successfully held their annual meetings using Zoom.

We will ask members to pre-register with their name, society represented, and email address.

Once the meeting papers are available we will request questions and items of Any Other Business in advance.

As usual, the meeting papers will be available on the Council website. If you would like a printed copy please send an A4 size SAE (£1.64 first class, £1.40 second class) to reach me (at 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB) by **25th July** so we know how many copies to print.

MARY BONE
Secretary
secretary@ccabr.org.uk

Jennie Town, Methodoku agony aunt (continued)

Last week Jennie explained about working bells, differential methods and consecutive places, and how they apply to Mark Davies's Methodoku puzzles. This week she looks at truth, alliances and symmetry ...

Tom: OK, so "True plain course" – what does "true" mean and how am I supposed to tell?

Jennie: "True" means that changes aren't repeated. I know that sounds scary because there are lots of changes in a plain course and how would you tell none of them are repeated! But I think in the Methodokus that say this you can just focus on the one lead, and it's normally enough if you avoid "obvious" places where changes could be repeated. For instance, if it's a Surprise Minor method, make sure you have a 12 or a 56 place when the treble is dodging in 3-4, otherwise the rows at the treble's backstroke in the dodge will repeat (and the handstrokes too).

Tom: Thank you! The solution to one of these seems to be an "Alliance" method. What's that?

Jennie: Alliance methods are those where the treble doesn't do an equal number of blows in each place in a lead (in this case because it doesn't dodge in 1-2) and this means that, in order to get an extent of minor, you would have to splice it with a method where the treble spends more time in those places than elsewhere (i.e. only dodges in 1-2 and then plain hunts out to 6ths and back).

Liv: I'm stuck again. I know what a palindrome is and I know what symmetry is, but what does palindromic symmetry mean when applied to a method?

Jennie: It is quite simple really, but I'm going to give you a longer explanation including a description of place notation, so bear with me!

Place notation is just a way of showing which bells stay in the same place between blows. So if 3rd and 6th places were made at the same time, the place notation would be "36". Sometimes though there won't be any places, and instead all the bells will cross with each other. The place notation for this is "x", which is pronounced "cross" not "ex"!

In fact, you can define an entire method just by the place notation, by the places made in the lead. To give a simple example: Little Bob Minor has the place notation x 16 x 14 x 16 x 12. Here is the first lead written out, with the place notation next to each change:

```
123456
214365 x
241635 16
426153 x
462135 14
641253 x
614523 16
165432 x
164523 12
```

Since you like puzzles this could be something you might like to try. To get the blue line from these figures you draw a line

showing the path of bell number 2 (2nd's place bell). When you get to the lead end you see that 2 has ended up in 5ths place, so you continue drawing the line following the pattern the 5th makes from rounds (5th's place bell). Keep going, connecting place bell to place bell, and you will find you've drawn out the blue line for the entire method, just from having the place notation and a pen and paper.

Now if you look at the blue line, you'll see it's a mirror image of itself. If you draw a line half-way through the pivot bell (4th's place bell for Little Bob Minor) then the lines above and below will be mirror images. That's palindromic symmetry.

The symmetry exists within the lead, too. Look at the place notation again, but for now ignore the lead end (12). You'll see the second half is the mirror image of the first half lead. Or in other words, if you reverse the whole lead x16x14x16x (again ignoring the lead end) you get the same thing – x16x14x16x. This is normal for standard methods, which include all the ones we are likely to ring on practice nights.

The other thing about palindromic symmetry is that bells which cross with each other at the half lead (when the treble lies behind) repeat each other's work backwards for the second half lead. So looking at the first lead of Little Bob Minor again, 2 and 6 cross with each other at the half-lead, so each repeats what the other one has just done, but in reverse. That's true for 3 and 5 too. But the 4 makes a place and repeats its own work backwards – it's the "pivot" bell.

It might be easier to see all of that if you look at Cambridge Minor. In the first lead the 3 makes a place at the half lead, so it is the pivot bell. The 2 and 5 dodge on the front at the half-lead, so they reverse each other's work. Have a close look at the lines and you should see how it works. Maybe you can see that this rule about bells crossing at the half lead could be very useful for the puzzles. It also means that if you have a bit of path worked out at one end of a lead, you can write in the shadow path at the other.

But remember this is only true for methods with palindromic symmetry.

You may not have expected such a detailed answer, but I am expecting you to be experts at method construction at the end of this!

Do you have any more questions about Methodoku for Aunt Jennie? Send them in to the Editor.

See a ringing term you don't understand?

Over 800 words and phrases explained at

jaharrison.me.uk/

Ringling/Glossary

or

<https://rwrld.uk/i45u>

This online resource is based on the comprehensive glossary in John Harrison's

The Tower Handbook,

written for CC Publications

in the 1990s, plus later additions.

Available from cccr.org.uk/shop

Thought for the week

It was Thursday 14th May. I was pottering around in the kitchen with half an ear on the BBC Radio 4 PM programme. Suddenly I heard Evan Davis the presenter say, 'We've had a request from a listener to hear church bells. It's been so long since she's heard them. Could we oblige?' On came a clip of Lincoln Cathedral bells ringing out. It was so long since I too had heard bells, I realised. I was caught unawares. I felt a genuine thrill. I was surprised by joy.

All churches have been going through an interesting time with congregations unable to meet in person for so long. Only now are the restrictions being eased. Local churches have been on a steep learning curve, exploring the potential of *Zoom* and *Youtube* and any other effective means of keeping congregations and communities in touch.

There have been gains and losses. Many churches have found that they have been in contact with a greater number of people than usual. Congregational on-line chat has been different: no breaking up into little groups. Now everyone can listen to everyone else. It's a different social, pastoral and spiritual experience. We've appreciated deeply that the Church is not the building but the people.

But buildings do matter and there is loss in not using them for worship and other community activities. Church buildings are a profound public statement of the spiritual dimension of creation. They may have practical uses but that's not what makes them tick. Although western culture has increasingly privatised religion (or tried to), Christianity has always been a religion of the public space. It has a vision of a renewed and redeemed society under God and seeks (often haltingly and inadequately) to embody that vision.

Bells are unavoidably part of the church building. They are part of the counter-culture that Christianity represents: a public witness of public religious faith. Part of that witness is to the divine gift which always catches one unawares, the gift of joy. When ringing does return it will be as Nehemiah 12.43 puts it: 'The joy of Jerusalem was heard far away'.

Revd Canon BILL CROFT (Retired)

Please help to reduce our office administration costs and use

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The Ringing World
bb.ringingworld.co.uk



The image of the week

Our image of the week is a band preparing to ring for the wedding of Emma Mann and Tim Cox at St George's, Douglas on the Isle of Man, taken on 27th June. The band were ringing for their first wedding after all the lockdown restrictions had been removed by the Isle of Man Government. Left to right: Hazel Bolton, David Farrell, Wendy Thirkettle, Julie Matthews, Marion Teare, Penny Thursfield, Bethany de Legh-Runciman Annette Thackray, Bruce Matthews, Ernie de Legh-Runciman.

THE RINGING WORLD LIMITED

Appointment of Directors

In accordance with Article 26 of the Company's constitution, one-third of the Directors are subject to retirement by rotation. Dr C F Roulstone and Mr R J Wallis retire. Dr C F Roulstone and Mr R J Wallis, being eligible, are willing to be reappointed.

Article 29 requires that notice of intention to propose a person as a Director should be sent to the undersigned, together with a note of willingness to be appointed by the nominee.

The notice should give the name of the nominee, address, occupation and any other directorships (these being particulars that have to be included in the Company's Register of Directors). The notice may be given in writing or by e-mail.

Proposals may be made by any member of the Company who is still a member of the Central Council at the time of nomination. Proposers should submit information about candidates for Directorship for inclusion in the agenda and also confirm that the nominee is not disqualified from holding office (see Article 36). Nominees are not required to be members of the Central Council.

Nominations may be made up to 28th August 2020. However, only those received by 10th August 2019 can be included in the papers for the Annual General Meeting.

Claire F Roulstone, Company Secretary,
3, Stocks Farm Cottages, The Street,
Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5BP
E-mail:
companysecretary@ringingworld.co.uk

Minor jottings on childcatching

Do you remember the child catcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*? He is one of the scariest villains of all time. Employed by a wicked count and countess, he lures unsuspecting children into his carriage with the promise of sweets and lollipops, only for an ingeniously disguised cage to spring shut once the kids are inside. He then carries them off to who knows what dreadful fate. That sequence terrified my son when he was a small child – the idea that grown-ups could offer you tempting things but then, once you had fallen for the bait, abuse your trust disturbed him deeply.

People have recently had a novel idea as to how to attract young people in to the world of ringing. It does not involve sugary confectionery, but it does involve the new interactive ringing apps that are becoming so popular. You may be aware of the recent debate about whether quarters scored in ringingroom.com and similar should be printed in *The Ringing World*. Are they ringing achievements comparable to peals rung in towers? I would argue that they are more "computer games" but then I had a lateral thought – the sort of thought that seems so obvious that I cannot imagine why no-one has suggested it before. If we could introduce a famous "gamer" (I believe such people do exist) or, even better, a group of famous gamers (say six or eight of them) to the joys of interactive bell ringing, perhaps these social influencers could spread the word amongst the gaming community? There are thousands of people out there who would probably love the challenge and complexity of ringing on a virtual platform,

despite the dull graphics. They may never have entered a tower in their lives, but they will appreciate the skills and expertise involved. Once hooked we might lure them out of their bedrooms and into the real world of ringing. How satisfying would that be? They are likely to be young, have quick reactions and a techie ability that would be welcome in most towers. All it should take would be a well-placed article in a suitable magazine (I believe Edge is much recommended) which catches the attention of the right sort of person who has thousands and thousands of social media followers. Imagine it – the world's teenagers falling over themselves to become bellringers! They would arrive at our towers unable to handle a bell, but able to "ring" Bristol Maximus faultlessly having practised it a zillion times.

I think the idea has legs. The tempting article would have to be written by someone who speaks the right sort of language and knows something about gaming as well as about ringing. They should be suitably enthusiastic about this wonderful gaming platform that they have discovered and encourage others to give it a try (this is the ingeniously disguised "trap"), without appearing too peculiar or nerdy. These pre-requisites rule out most of us oldies, but should there be a young ringer out there who feels up to the challenge, why don't you give it a try?

At the very least, thousands of parents of teenagers would be grateful that their sons and daughters were showing an interest in something that might look good on their CV sometime in the future (see also 14 Sep 2018 p.883).

MARY JONES