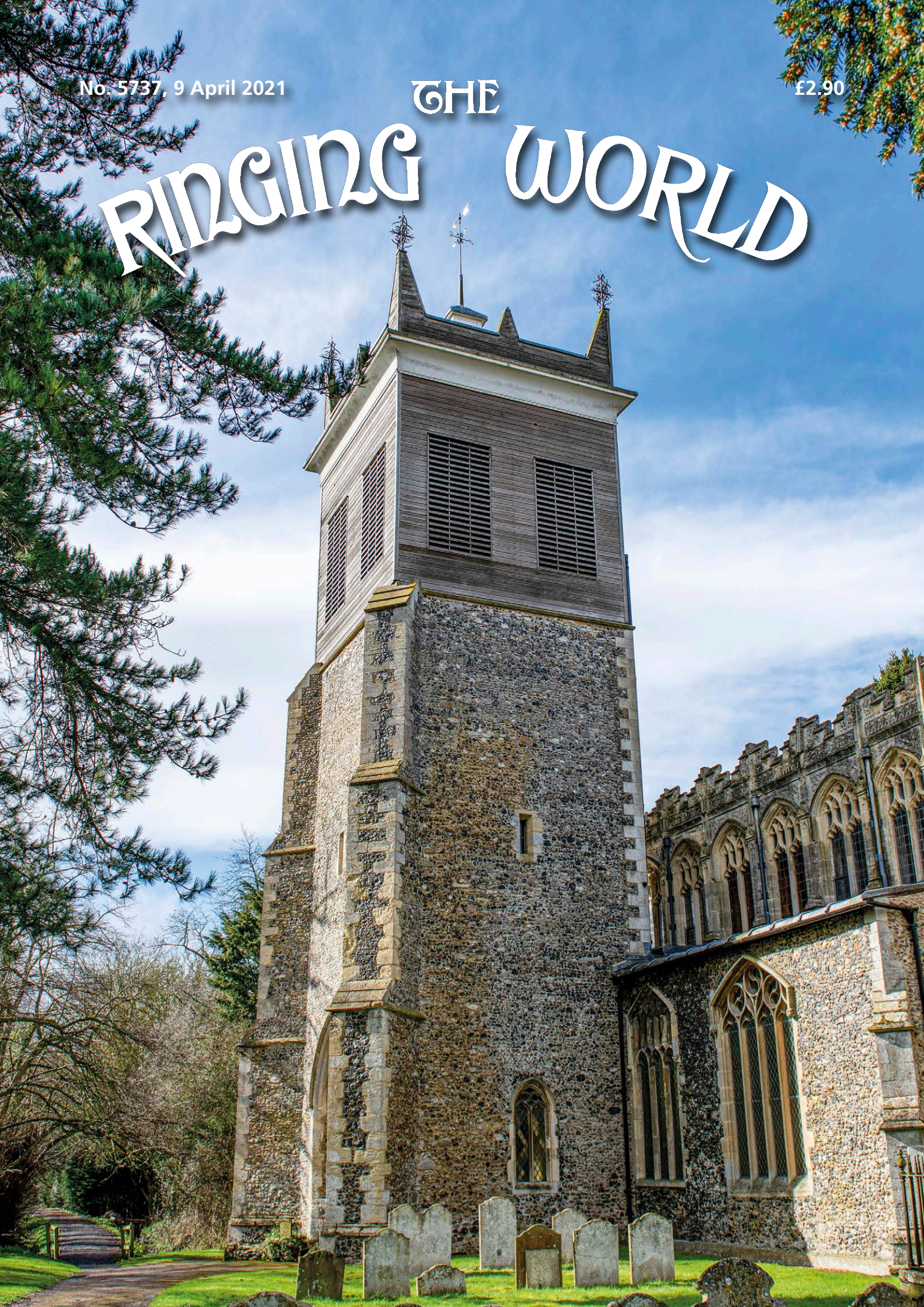


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THE RINGING WORLD





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Proprietor and Editor from 1911 until 1942

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On the cover

Our front cover this week shows the tower of St Mary and St Lambert's Church, Stonham Aspal, Suffolk, as photographed by **Neil Thomas**.

There are two peculiarities about Stonham Aspal. The first is the church's dedication. St Lambert's patronage is a mistake attributable to eighteenth-century antiquarians. There are three Stonhams in Suffolk. To distinguish itself from the others, Stonham Aspal was formerly known as Stonham Lambert after the Lambert family who were the local landowners. Obviously something was lost in translation although the false dedication remains. Incidentally, there is a St Lambert who was Bishop of Maastricht and is considered to be an eighth-century martyr.

The second peculiarity is the unusual wooden belfry incongruously perched atop the stone and flint tower containing a ring of ten. Prior to 1742, the tower was a conventional affair with a ring of five bells. Squire Theodore Ecclestone of Crowfield Hall, a keen and wealthy campanologist, was desirous to have more bells to increase his method ringing opportunities. However, the existing belfry was not big enough to accommodate such a venture. The Squire's solution: remove the belfry and replace it with a wooden one with thinner walls!

Only one of the original ten bells from 1742 survives which is the ninth bell cast by Thomas Lester. The tenor is dated 1745 while various recastings have taken place over the years. The fifth was recast in 1770 by Pack and Chapman, but the majority of the bells were recast by Thomas Mears Jnr in 1826. The tenor bell weighs 23-0-18 and the ring is in

the key E \flat major. With such a heavy tenor, it is a wonder that the wooden structure, which is subject to expansion and contraction in changing weather conditions, can support the weight and forces exerted when the bells are swung full circle. The wooden belfry also has acoustic properties that differ from conventional brick or stone towers.

The bells still hang in their original wooden frame made in 1742 by John Williams, which was later repaired in 1884 by Day of Eye. It is testimony to the craftsmanship of John Williams that the frame continues in service after almost 280 years. In 1954 the bells received an overhaul from Gillett and Johnston of Croydon. At this time the frame was strengthened, the eighth bell was recast and all the bells' plain bearings were renewed with ball bearings. Despite this, the bells are known to be challenging to ring particularly in very hot and very wet conditions.

Having noted that the frame remains solid and sturdy, the wooden belfry, which bears the brunt of all the elements that the British weather may throw at it, has had to be renewed over the years. It was most recently replaced in the 1980s as shown in the image below (photographed by David Vincent and kindly provided by Sally Munnings). The image shows the bells in their frame, encased in scaffolding but clearly exposed with the absence of the belfry walls.

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.



Stonham Aspal belfry without the wooden walls (David Vincent courtesy of Sally Munnings)

Celebrating Easter



At Selby Abbey on Easter morning: Tim Jones, Catherine Riley, John Wright with his Maundy Money, Luke Riley, Issey, and Pam Hudson

It has been a very strange year for everybody, but at Selby we have been lucky to be able to ring whenever circumstances allowed. The band has met, as have a lot of others, via Zoom, and the last time we rang together as a band was for Christmas. Having done all the relevant risk assessments it was decided that as Easter is such an important date for the Church we should ring on Easter Sunday.

This was an even greater celebration than normal as one of our ringers is now officially an “Elderly Recipient”, at least in the eyes of the Royal Mint: he has been presented with the annual purse of Maundy Money. John Wright, a ringer at the Abbey since the 1980’s and one of the main drivers in the improvements to the bells and ringing room, was awarded the Honour in this year’s ceremony – just over fifty years since his grandfather received it in 1969. Sadly because of Covid it arrived in the post, but this does not detract from the honour and privilege. As we move out of Covid restrictions John will be a great rôle model for our young ringers, who will hopefully be starting closed practices on a Saturday morning in the near future.

ROGER S RILEY
Tower Captain, Selby, South Yorkshire



‘Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!’
A service touch of 96 Minimus was rung by Debbie and Nigel Birt for the St Michael’s, Kingsteignton Easter Service held on Zoom.



The Washington Cathedral band after ringing a touch of Grandsire Caters on Easter Sunday, the first ringing on the bells after more than a year due to pandemic restrictions, rung by a fully vaccinated band



The York Minster ringers prior to ringing outside the Minster on Easter morning. Ringing later followed outside the Oratory Church of St Wilfrid, the tower of which is shown in the photograph. The ringers are (l-r): Gail Cater, Mark Ockleton, Ian Anderson, Andrew Blacklock, Patrick Deakin and David Hull (photo Bob Cater)

Editorial

A sunny Easter weekend for many (with Easter ringing coming in many shapes and sizes), the resumption of outdoor handbell ringing and good signs for the gradual opening up of towerbell ringing: hopefully ringers are feeling optimistic and ready to get going (although Bernard Taylor’s account of a DIY rehang this week is yet another example of how much we can still be doing in lockdown!). Chris Mew’s article overleaf condenses lots of issues which need discussing at the moment. We look forward to hearing how bands and societies everywhere deal with them.

The Central Council’s latest guidance on ringing safely can be found at ccbr.org.uk/coronavirus.

This is updated every Friday evening, with recent changes marked at the top of the page.

Look to! Treble’s sewing ...

Good luck to Andrew Aspland, who we gather is one of twelve contestants in this year’s *Great British Sewing Bee*. The first episode of ten will be broadcast on BBC1 next Wednesday (14th) at 9pm. Hopefully, the final cut will include a segment on ringing filmed in Hull.

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Returning to ringing – a short and long term view

For a year now ringers have focused on the time when we can all return to our belfries. How “normal” this situation will be is hostage to many influences, not least progress with vaccinations and threats of further waves of infection. The Central Council and ART have both done a wonderful job keeping ringers up to date with information, with the preparation of a “toolbox” of advice on recovery, and suggesting steps for a smooth return. But ‘returning to ringing’ raises several questions, both for the immediate and for the long-term future, which I would like to touch upon.

Local operation of ringing will vary greatly according to the physical attributes of individual ringing spaces and finding a system which is acceptable both to ringers and to the PCC which has control over permission to resume. There is some uncertainty how comfortable individual ringers will feel – the willingness to come back may be affected by health circumstances, which may be in turn be personal or perhaps involve shielding a family member. There may be reluctance from some older ringers after a 12–18-month gap; they may even have deteriorated in health. As Simon Linford has already said, there should be no pressure on anyone to resume if they are not happy to.

One question which arises is how to treat visiting ringers – whether individuals attending practices or complete bands touring. Provided the local requirements agreed with the PCC are complied with, there should be no problem in either practical terms or in terms of insurance.

Long-term future

Having said all that, and hoping that we shall all be ringing again soon, there remain questions about the future which could be divided into three areas:

1. Demand for ringing
2. Sources of recruitment
3. Training

The first two are closely linked to the future activities of the churches in which we ring. The Church of England published a Church Buildings Review in September 2015; the Central Council responded to consultation in January 2016, and the future of buildings continues to be the subject of regular meetings with Church House. Weekly church attendance has continued to fall, with serious implications for the 15,700 C of E churches, of which 78% are listed buildings. In rural areas 75% of churches have attendance of fewer than 37 people, half under 19. These figures were pre-Covid and nobody associated with the church will be unaware of the dire financial position in which this places parishes and the Church Commissioners.

Demand for ringing

The likely implication is that it will be increasingly difficult to sustain church buildings. There are already many joint benefices with clergy shared between anything from 2 to 10 buildings. In some circumstances services are held on a rota basis and not necessarily weekly. What does this mean for ringers, both in terms of need for our activity calling to church, but also the onetime seed corn of recruiting – congregations themselves? There

have been hopeful calls for “all bells to be rung every Sunday”, but this seems unrealistic.

I carried out a quick look at parishes and towers within my Coventry Guild area which, although not comprehensive, gave some interesting results. Looking at 77 parishes with a total of 499 bells, no less than 60 towers were part of joint benefices, with between 2 and 7 churches in each. Parish electoral roll numbers were consistently low, with an average of 89. In rural areas with low population the average fell to 43, with a single figure in one instance. The electoral roll does not of course represent attendance, which is normally lower, and the relationship between parish electoral roll numbers and population is just 1 in 40.

Another factor affecting every aspect of church life is local population change, pertinent given the recent March 2021 Census. I compared parish populations 1951–2011 and found 15 parishes having absolute decline between 2% and 57%, whilst a further 18 were either static or had a lower growth than the national average. In this context, UK population rose over the same period from 50.6m to 68m.

For comparison I looked at Norfolk, which many might view as predominantly rural. Comparing the population for 146 parishes with rings of bells, 27 had an absolute decline of between 2% and 53% whilst a further 40 were either static or had lower than average growth.

There have been enormous social changes occasioned by structural change in industry and employment, proliferation of the motorway network, and development of new and overspill towns. The current drive to increase housing stock is having a major effect on some small communities, an effect which will not fully emerge for some time. However, with some 18% of the population aged over 65 and decline in some smaller habitations, the source of new people may be very restricted.

Perhaps we should recognise this reality and plan for more targeted operations, looking at what can be achieved in the most effective way for a fewer number of towers. There has been much said about “clusters” of towers, though there is nothing new in this – over 50 years ago towers were forming self-help groups, reciprocally supporting practices and service ringing. Locally, Graham Nabb has done good work with his Edge Hill group, ensuring ringing for rotational services, plus key days like Easter and Christmas. When I was in Surrey there were “flying squads” of experienced ringers making series of visits to raise local standards.

Sources of recruitment

Recruitment has been discussed at great length, with the common agreement that it is difficult, and an overall solution seeming elusive. My points above relate to the diminishing sources once available in both church congregations and local populations, especially in rural areas. The involvement of schools and colleges may be a fruitful area and much here is being done with local experiments. But some communities have lost their local schools. A big question: should we be more specific in targeting certain groups of people whilst simultaneously seeking to be inclusive?

I have touched upon the tremendous social changes of recent decades, not least the IT revolution, which has made information about ringing more easily available to all.

It has of course also been a rich source of alternative entertainment. Will those whose first experience of ringing is Ringing Room want to transfer to heavy, real bells in less than inviting surroundings?

Most would agree that catching recruits in their teens is the best age both for enthusiasm and potential retention. Our Guild youth team has been a beacon for new joiners and also progressed to running its own practices. However, there are practical problems for young ringers which were not present to the same extent in the past. Information apps on their phones may be instant, but getting to towers is something else. Without the help of parents or friends, transport can be a problem. Public bus services in villages and indeed some towns may have reduced to sparse levels, and commonly “die” after about 7pm. Urban areas, which may have trains, fare a little better but can still be problematic, and there are always the questions of cost and security.

Training

The Central Council undertook a training survey in 2015 and it was surprising to find that some societies had no Education or Training Officer and few had a dedicated training fund. In this context I am aware of calls for Bell Repair Funds to be raided to provide training finance. I can only reiterate that the position of the Church today makes it all the more essential that ringers continue their support for church fabric and, if necessary, increase it. Birmingham has shown that people are willing to pay for being trained to ring and are willing to subscribe in advance. Elsewhere societies have underwritten the cost of attending ART courses. In the course of discussing training and education, I suggested that a seed corn grant of £500 be made by CCCBR to each affiliated society for education purposes, but there was reluctance to support the idea.

Any training requires teams of competent teachers and assistants – the ART are doing a grand job in bringing skills to the fore and certifying individuals. I fear that one of our problems is sheer lack of numbers, and the aging profile of “old hands” – me included – does not help.

As a start I would suggest that societies look at plans for their own local areas.

1. Look at how towers can be grouped for training purposes
2. Concentrate expenditure on specified ringing centres rather than spreading thinly. These could include simulators, dumbbells and perhaps a mobile belfry for use around a Branch or District.
3. Make sure there is a properly financed training budget – allocate some general funds or even have a training levy.
4. Involve as many locals as possible: it makes for good society friendship and eases the load on the “faithful few”.

Much of the foregoing has been discussed at length up and down the country but I felt that it would be good to crystallise a few ideas again. During the return to ringing we should not lose sight that it is a community activity, by the community for the community, and only by remaining locally focused can the support of local people be involved.

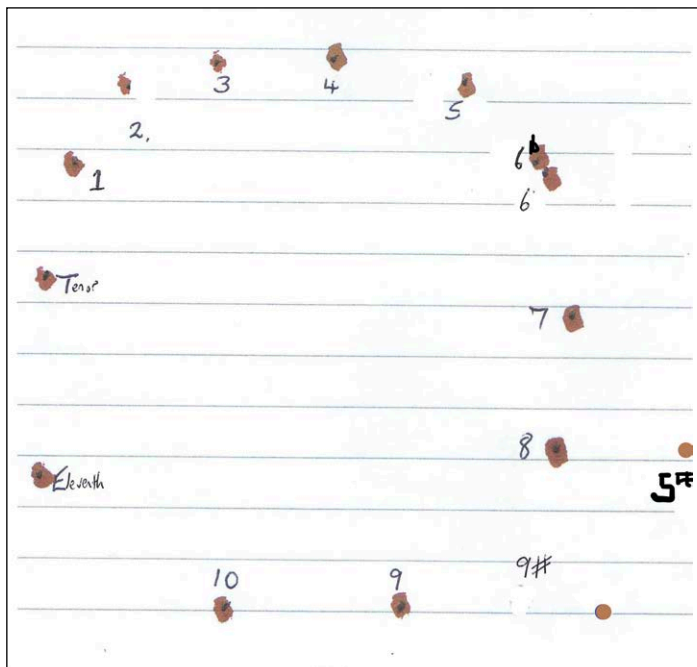
CHRIS MEW
Warwick

What did you do in lockdown? Rehang two bells

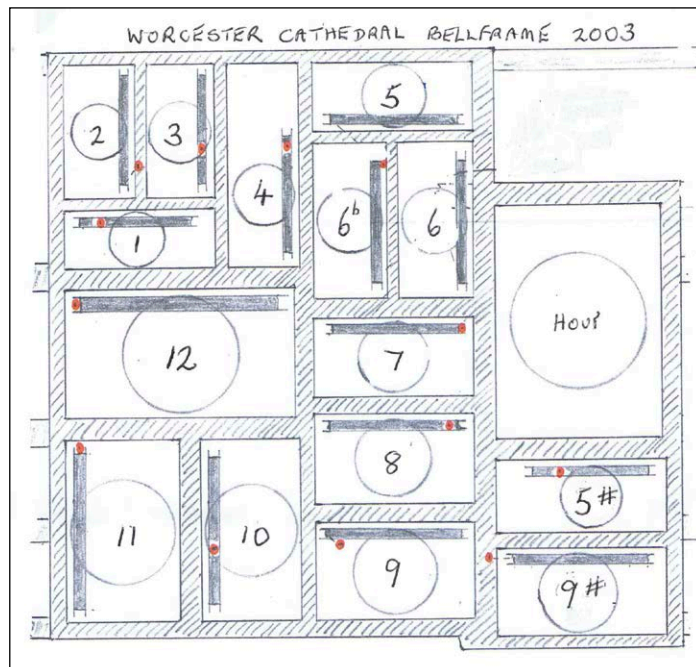
by Bernard Taylor



Worcester Cathedral
Guild of Bellringers



How the old rope circle looked from above



Bell frame showing empty area in NE corner top right. The 4-ton hour or bourdon bell on the east (right) side sits higher than the rest of the frame

The ring of bells at Worcester Cathedral has always been unusual in having three, and now (as of 2018) four, semitone bells – the flat sixth (6^b), the sharp fifth ($5^\#$), the sharp ninth ($9^\#$) and the sharp second ($2^\#$). The use of these bells creates a number of subsidiary rings as listed in the new online *Dove*. The most important are the two rings of ten based on bells 2–11 of the twelve – the Harmonic Minor Ten using $5^\# + 6^b$, and the major Clare Ten using $2^\# + 5^\# + 9^\#$.

The layout of the frame caused the $5^\#$ to be roped a long way out of the normal rope circle and made the ringing of certain combinations awkward from a ropesight perspective. The rope fell behind the 8th of the twelve which is the 7th in these two rings. The bell was first rung to a peal in 1961, and a note from G E Evenden (published in *The Ringing World* 1961 p.474 details the odd 'circle' of the ropes for the $C^\#$ octave, stating '... it seems practical for this arrangement to be improved'. Well, it has only taken 59 years to do so!

For some time we have been determined to correct this as part of a long-term project to improve the ringing conditions at Worcester, but the logistics and the costs were major obstacles. This is the story of how it was finally done.

Three ideas which went nowhere

In June 2018 we looked at **moving the $5^\#$ to a new pit to be placed in the NE corner**, a location from which its rope would be easily 'drawn' close to the 5th rope. Only two frame sides would be needed but though this area is 'empty' of bells there is a staircase to the top of the elevated bourdon frame which would have needed rebuilding. When priced up the five-figure total did seem a lot of money just to solve a ropesight problem!

I then wondered, in October 2018, whether we couldn't **just swap the two bells over**, bringing the $5^\#$ into the centre of the frame to achieve the objective of roping next to the 5th. The issue then became whether the 6^b could be roped effectively from the $5^\#$ pit to be nearer the 6th in the ringing room, using the rope-hole then used for the bourdon chiming rope. Although not ideal it would have put the 6^b rope in approximately the right place, just rather set back.

However, this would have resulted in a very drawn rope-run, 7' draw over 11' of height in the carillon room. Still, there was no reason not to test the feasibility, so we roped the $5^\#$ in this way and moved the bourdon rope to where the $5^\#$ had been – which fooled a few people for some time. Despite the problems of a long sloping chute this was quite successful and the experiment ran for a year, during which four peals were rung on it. But it was never really quite good enough and we put the $5^\#$ rope back to its old position in October 2019.

The deal-breaker was really the bearings. The 6^b would have needed a major alteration for these to fit tight up against the adjacent $9^\#$, turning this otherwise DIY solution into a bellhanger's job. Working through all the aspects of this hadn't been a complete waste of time however – we knew **putting the $5^\#$ in the 6^b pit** was feasible.

So, the 6^b **had to go somewhere else, the obvious place being the NE corner**, as had been mooted for $5^\#$ in the first idea. Naturally, it worked out much the same in cost terms. Despite the need for fundraising, at this point we wanted to get the idea approved, and so put forward a consultative paper to Chapter in December 2019, which also included requests to remove the carillon hammers and fix the clock's quarter chimes (see notes at end). To our disappointment approval was not forthcoming – for various reasons a rethink was required.

Plan 4.0 and Lockdown

So we started 2020 not much further forward, and after 18 months a little discouraged. However, during a visit by James Haseldine of Whites on 24th January a new idea emerged to **put 6^b in the large space under the 4-ton bourdon bell**, removing the need to reconstruct the NE stairs. We looked at various configurations and settled on using two steels sitting N-S on the large sub-frame supports. This placed the bell no further away from its rope-hole than it had been in its existing pit.



A selection of carillon hammers down on the Teaching Centre floor. They are still there!

Although the Covid lockdown meant this was not formally costed, we knew that this plan would involve much the same amount of work as the NE corner plan and so be in the five-figure ball-park. Emboldened by the success of our other work on the cathedral bells and backed by our own bellhanging experience (Bernard at Harpenden & others, Ashley at Yarkhill) we **decided to do the whole job ourselves** and *re-use all the fittings*.

John Slater, ex-Whitechapel Works Manager, had designed the framework for the 2[#] in 2018 and was happy to do the same for the 6^b, creating a simple but effective structure, and producing engineering drawings. Jim Wheeler, our go-to metal engineer, agreed to fabricate it, and Neil Sparey, owner of NDS Engineering, allowed us the use of his premises and organised the



The 5# on top of its old pit



Three hammers on one bell – the 9th had a pair of carillon hammers (in red) and one of the clock's quarter chimes (in blue)

provision of steel and the galvanising. The budget for the whole thing was set at £2,500, underwritten by Bernard in case funds were short.

Lockdown writing

Members of Chapter agreed to visit the belfry on 16th March, which helped to get some momentum on the project. Because consultation with both Chapter and the Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) proved lengthy, a considerable amount of time was needed to write and rewrite the proposals. So in a way lockdown proved fortuitous because there were the hours to do all this, though it reached the point of tedium quite early on.

A key hurdle was cleared on 4th June with Chapter approval and FAC approval followed on **15th July**. Ian Stainburn, of the FAC, commented to Mark Regan, *'The final paperwork that you and the Guild submitted was excellent and won plaudits from the Committee'*, which was some validation of all that redrafting.

Moving these two semitone bells was the main job but our approval request to Chapter included the two other projects that had



The 5# lowered into the old 6b pit



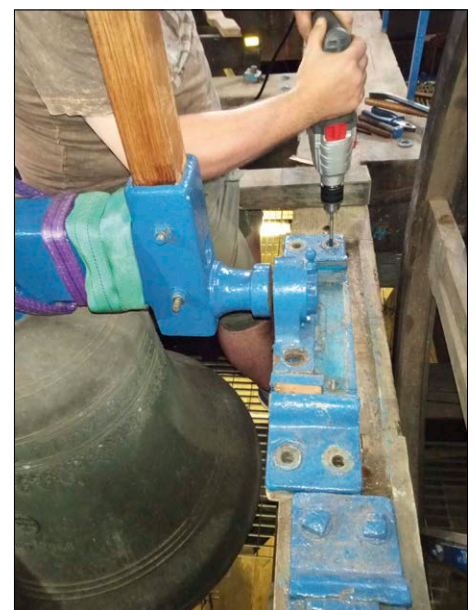
The 6b on the belfry floor underneath the frame

been in the first consultative paper – (1) the dismantling and removal of the 28 redundant carillon hammers, and (2) the removal of the five clock hammers on the 7th, 8th, 9th and tenor and their replacement with an installation of new quarter chimes striking on the 4th, 5th, 6^b and 9th. The quoted cost of these works doubled the overall total cost but they had no cathedral funding. We offered to do all the removal aspects free of charge, saving a four-figure sum, and see if we could find a funding source.

Doing the work – hammer removal

The easing of some of the Covid restrictions in the summer meant we were able to get going as soon as we had approval but the cathedral allowed us only short days (9am-3pm) to operate rather than the full days (8.30-5.00) which we had worked previously.

We started by dismantling the carillon hammers, quickly realizing that the professional quote for this was probably under-priced! The carillon machine used to operate on bells 2-12 plus the 3 semitones of 5[#], 6^b and 9[#]. The suspended hammers had become a safety hazard and the



Installing the west bearing plate of 5#



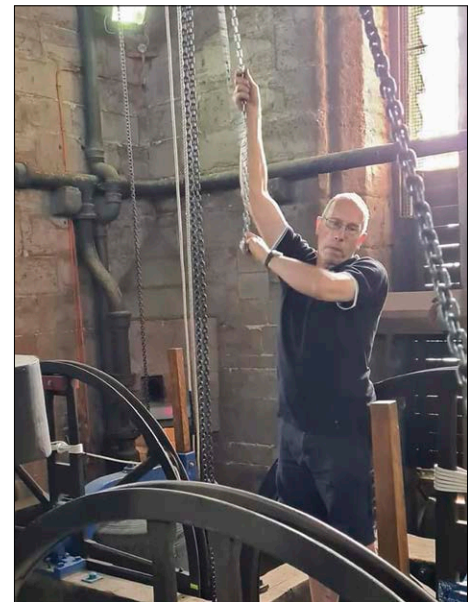
The sharp fifth in the old flat sixth pit, all dressed up and ready to ring, 1st September 2020



Some of the framework ready for assembly



Jim Wheeler, Frame-builder



15th September – If you want a job done properly, do it yourself

extensive wire linkages a huge impediment to moving around underneath the frame. Each bell had a pair of hammers, making 28 in all, so removing them was a serious and awkward job. We also took out the redundant supporting woodwork – as much of this employed very large 1928 nails this was non-trivial too.

Whilst originally planned as part of the clock chime work we also removed the 5 clock hammers on the 7th, 8th, 9th and tenor, the last ones proving exceptionally hard work – the combination of weight, awkward shape and a confined space being considerably less than ideal working conditions.

Moving the sharp fifth (5[#])

By August we were itching to get to work on the bells. We first installed a chain hoist on each of the two large E-W lifting beams positioned about 10m above the bells. Unable

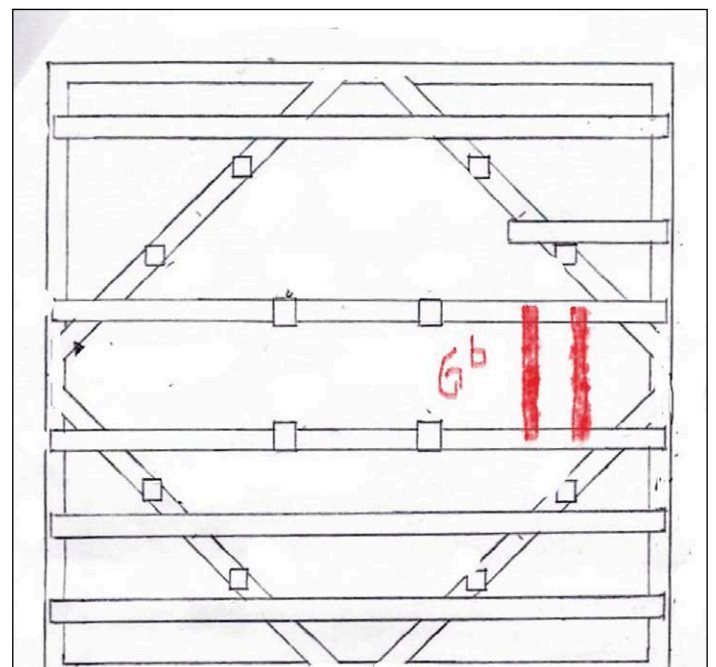
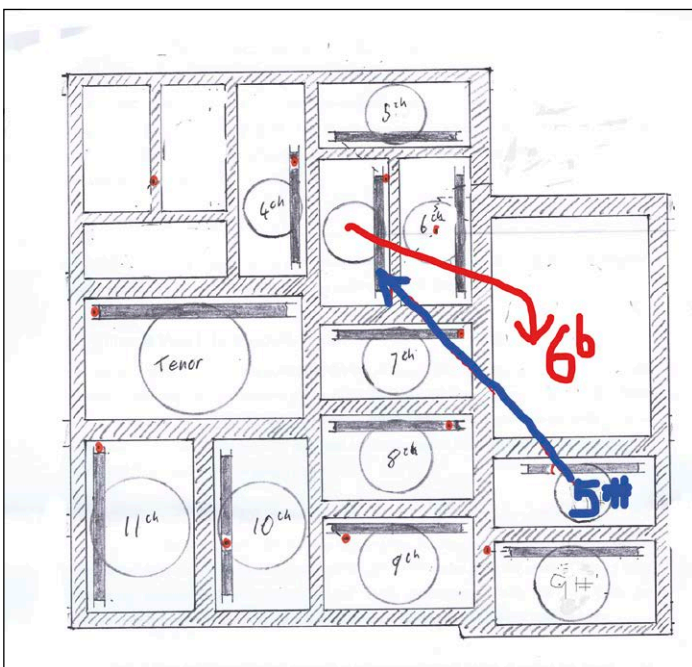
to convince Ashley to go up there, I used some rusty cricketing skills to get a rope over each which could then be used to fix a chain or hanging stop. Rather usefully the two beams were in a good place – one over the top of the old pit and one over the top of the new location! We used 1,000kg hoists, more than ample for the job, as lifting bell plus headstock for the larger 6^b involved about 600kg.

Keen to play with our newly installed hoists we immediately dismantled the 5[#] fittings and lifted the bell to the top of its frame on the south side of the tower.

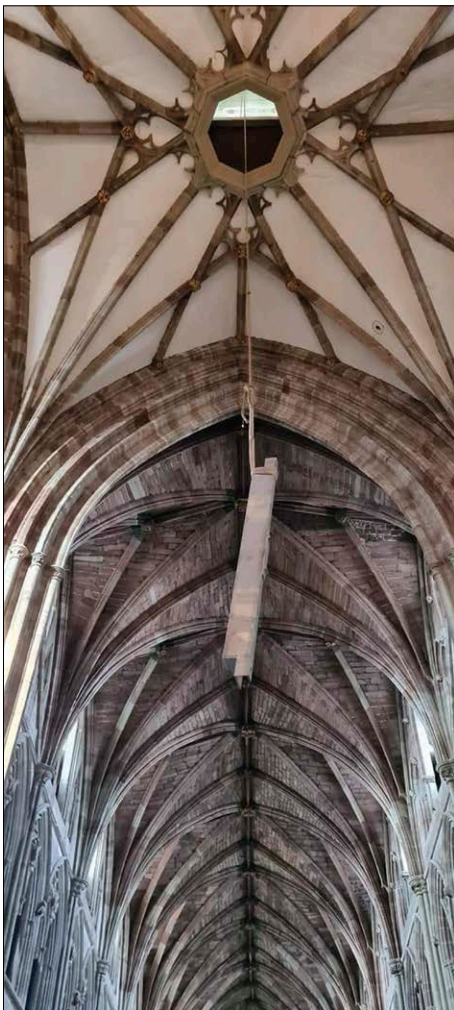
A couple of days later the 6^b was dropped through its pit on to the belfry floor and then shifted east about four metres to under the bourdon bell. This proved slightly trickier than anticipated and involved manoeuvring around the hour chime mechanism.

With the 6^b out of the way it was possible to place the 5[#] in its new home in the centre of the frame. This was the key part of the job, involving both chain hoists.

In fixing down the 5[#] bearings we fortuitously benefitted from some previous work. The 5[#] bearing housings are a step down in size from those of the 6^b so we could not use the holes left in the bedplates. However, prior to 2003 it was the 6th not the 6^b which had been in this pit and which had left holes correctly spaced on the east side. So all we had to do was tap them for M16 bolts.



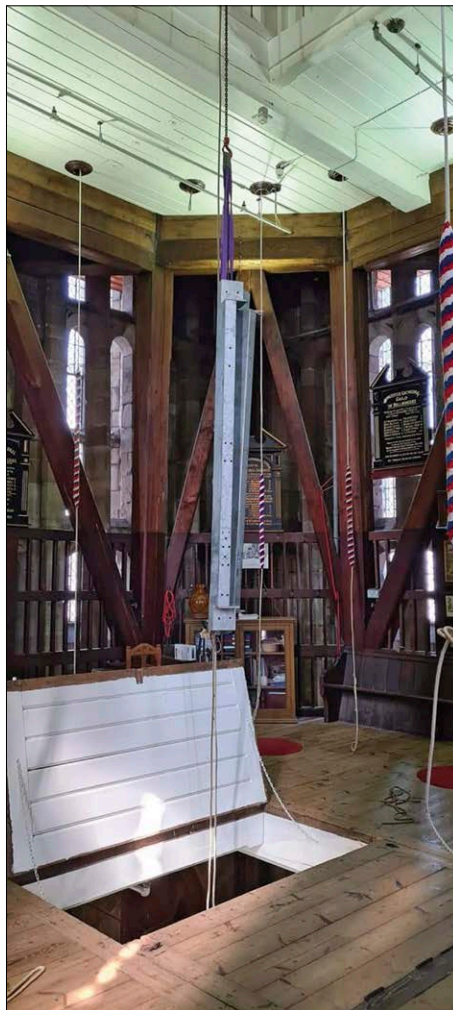
Moving the 5[#] and 6^b to their new locations



Up through the nave ...

On the west side we turned the bedplate 180° to avoid existing holes, then drilled and tapped new correctly-spaced holes for the bearings. It was all a lot more straightforward than we had feared!

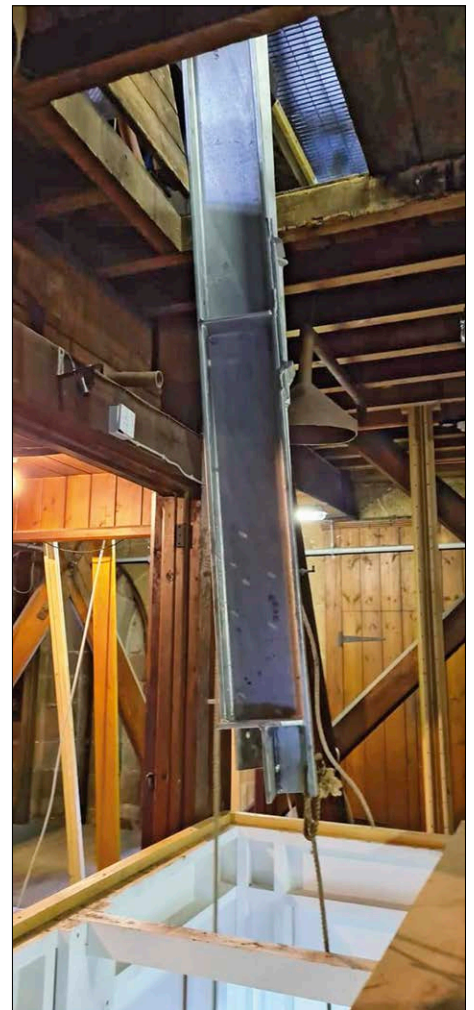
After this it wasn't long before the wheel was on, the main pulley was installed and



...through the ringing room ...

the rope-run down could be sorted. For this we had to drill a new hole in the ringing room ceiling which involved the erection of our rather old scaffold tower. We used the existing 5th rope hole for the 5[#] to create a straight drop and put the 5th in a new hole as close as possible to it (this also did involve a small adjustment to the chute angle). Much measuring was needed to ensure that the hole drilled *up* through the ceiling matched the hole drilled *down* through the carillon room floor, as well as avoiding anything in the 30cm gap between the two.

With all the 5[#] fittings assembled except for clapper the bell was 'dumb' tested, dismantled for clean-up of wheel and metalwork, paintwork and wood treatment, then re-assembled with clapper and rung



... up to the belfry

for the first time in its new location on 1st September 2020. Sadly, it hasn't been rung since!

Moving the flat sixth (6^b)

By mid-August John Slater had finalised his engineering drawings and Jim Wheeler cracked on and built all the frame at NDS in the following fortnight. It was then sent to Hereford for galvanising. An eagle-eyed inspection revealed a few small alterations were needed prior to installation.

15th September was a really special day. The galvanised steel framework for 6^b was delivered by Jim Wheeler, hoisted 35m to the Teaching Centre by cathedral staff, then another 20m to the belfry by Bernard. We then spent some time installing the two steels which were (deliberately) a tight fit.



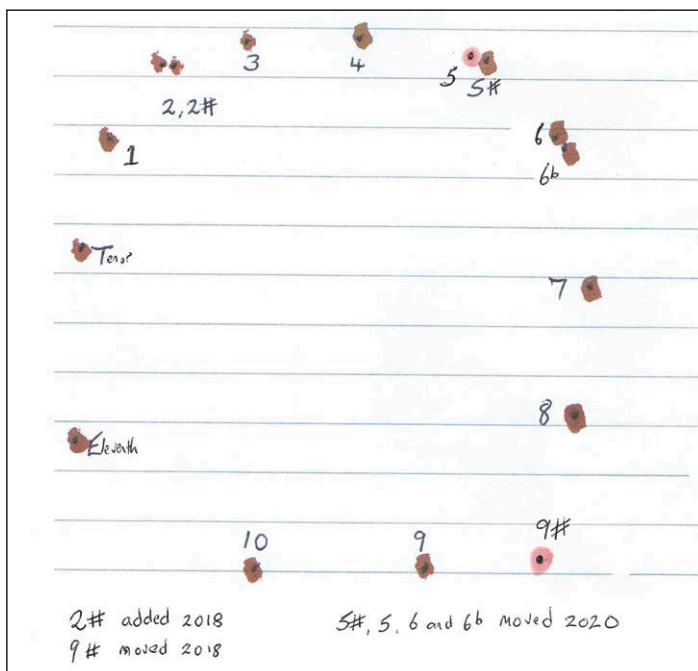
The flat 6th sitting on the new framework, 15th September



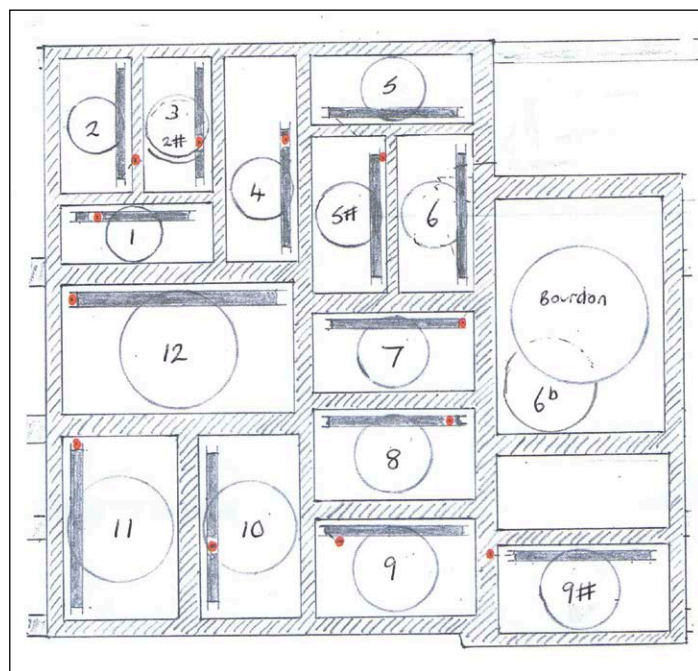
Roping the 5th and sharp 5th



Roping the flat 6th and 6th



The new rope circle



Revised layout of the cathedral bells

Manoeuvring the 6^b bell from the floor into its position on the beams was testing work because the 4-ton bourdon bell above it rather got in the way of the two lifting chains!

By the end of day it was very satisfying to see the 6^b sitting in its new home. In under six hours we'd turned an empty space into a bell-frame with a bell in it.

A fortnight later the 6^b was aligned and bolted down, the wheel, pulley and slider installed, and a new stay made from an old one. The bell was test rung from the room below. The proximity of the two existing rope holes (now swapped over) with both chuted ropes coming from the same direction required a novel two-level arrangement of the pulleys in the carillon room.

By the end of October we'd finished all the hanging work and also spent some time adding a grillage next to the 6^b frame so it is safer to stand near, with a fixed ladder to get

to it. The bourdon rope had to be channelled through this and around the bottom frame.

A second Covid-19 lockdown of the UK started 4th November so we finished the project just in time. We are looking forward to being able to ring these bells. Sadly, the wonderful Harmonic Minor Ten (which includes both the bells moved – 5[#] and 6^b) was not heard on Remembrance Day.

The workers would, of course, like to ring a peal on each bell in their new positions. A curiosity awaits another member of the band if he does the same – a '3 in 1' and a '1 in 3'. If he rings the 5[#] it will be the third bell he's pealed in that pit and if he rings the 6^b he will have rung that bell from three different locations!

The total monetary cost was £1,608, an amazingly small sum, and even lower than the low figure we had budgeted. Compared to contracting out the work we saved almost £20,000 and completed it much earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

Roughly speaking 200 man-hours were spent on the hammer removal and bell-hanging projects, which, if we'd been paid a very reasonable £50 per hour, would have cost £10,000. I must emphasise that I am not accusing professional contractors of over-charging – they need to pay proper wages plus travel costs and other overheads and they also need to make some profit to stay in business. In addition I would like to record that Whites of Appleton were very helpful and thank them for being so supportive of this project.

The outstanding job is that of re-installing the clock's quarter chimes. Shortage of funding suggests that it will be our next project, which looks like being done on the same basis.



The flat 6th ready in its new home under the bourdon bell

Notes

1. This was not the piece of anti-heritage vandalism that it sounds. The 1872 Gillett & Bland carillon machine remains in the tower but it has not worked for nearly 30 years. The system of rotating a pinned barrel to pull levers which have long connections via cranks to 28 hammers is inherently flawed. The last attempted restoration in the early 1990s failed because the setup requires constant adjustment. A serious desire to make it work would require an expensive restoration of the barrels and an electronic addition to operate newer more suitable hammers. So, removing the old hammers is not really preventing its return to use.
2. The quarter chimes became unsafe in October 2018 and Chapter had shown no desire to fix them, so it was very much up to the ringers to make something happen. One aspect of making them safer was to avoid the hammers striking through the wheels (the case of both the 7th & tenor) which meant re-installing three of the five. So, if re-installation was most of the cost, it seemed prudent to put them on the bells Denison intended in 1869 so as to create 'true' Westminster chimes with the tonic note an octave above the bourdon.

EXECUTIVE OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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The sender's full name, address and telephone number (daytime and evening) should be supplied, but if these details are not to be published this should be clearly stated at the head of the letter. Where a letter to the Editor is not for publication, kindly put 'Not for Publication' at the head of the letter. It is not usually possible to acknowledge receipt of letters privately. We reserve the right to edit letters and do not guarantee to print the whole of any letter received. Publication of a letter does not imply agreement with its contents by the Editor and/or Directors of The Ringing World Ltd. The Ringing World Ltd shall not be liable for accuracy of information or opinions expressed in published letters or for any loss or damage suffered as a result of their contents.

Bell (pub)s in the news

SIR, – Readers watching BBC1 TV news broadcasts recently concerning possible Covid “passports” giving admission to pubs during lockdown may have noted that they were accompanied by film footage of the deserted Bell and Cross pub, Holy Cross, Clent, Worcestershire.

This contrasts favourably with the situation twelve months ago when the Blue Bell pub, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashton, Nottinghamshire featured in the news – for failing to close when the first Covid lockdown was announced. Readers may also remember that, in the summer, the owners of the James Atherton pub, Victoria Road, New Brighton, Merseyside, were not happy with the restrictions placed on the licensed trade in the Merseyside area and renamed the pub “The Three [see 23 Oct, p.1047]”. They changed its sign to one showing images of Boris Johnson, Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health) and Dominic Cummings (the PM's chief adviser at the time) with bells on their heads.

Cheers! (but only virtual)

Yateley, Hampshire **CHRIS HUTCHINSON**



*Bell and Cross pub,
Holy Cross, Clent, Worcestershire*

CC President's blog

About 15 years ago, the roof of Grade I listed Calke Abbey was re-configured and connected to new, bigger, drainpipes because it was no longer coping with increased levels of storm rainfall. It was the first time listed building consent was granted to a Grade I listed building for alterations brought about as a result of climate change. English Heritage revised their definition of ‘conservation’ at the same time to be about managing change rather than conserving things as they are.

This story is relevant because towers are starting to think about adapting to the need for increased ventilation. A couple of years ago I asked for the windows in an airless tower I ring at, Perry Barr, to be changed to be operable, but the request was declined by the church architect. I wonder now whether the answer might be different. The importance of ventilation is becoming more prominent in government guidance and I expect many towers will need to be adapted. Some test cases would be interesting to establish principles.

Last Saturday I attended the first meeting of the new PR Workgroup, which has been assembled by CC PR Officer Vicki Chapman. It was an energising meeting of people all interested in ringing PR – definitely a ‘doing’ group. The Comms and Marketing Workgroup has been wound down. That is not to say that marketing is off the agenda by any means. In fact, we are working on two funding bids for large scale marketing initiatives, one with the Big Ideas Company and one with the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the latter in partnership with ART and the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain.

Keeping the PR theme, Jane McCutcheon from the Truro DG demonstrated their brilliant PR initiative enabling all bells in Cornwall to be heard on Easter Sunday. Go to the Truro DG website, start typing the name of a tower into the search box, e.g. Gwennap, and you will get a link to the sound of the bells. They have recorded every tower and these links have been distributed across Cornwall's media. Gwennap is incidentally the scene of the worst sermon I have ever heard, the vicar managing to spend 30 minutes rambling incoherently on the text “When you trim the lamps, burn incense on the altar.”

The PR Workgroup has introduced new faces to Council work. I think a particular success of current Central Council activity is how many people we have involved who would never have considered it before, having moved away from only drawing on the resources of CC Reps. One recruit I spoke to last week introduced himself somewhat apologetically as “only a village Bob Minor ringer really” – but that is exactly what we need. What makes people apologise for lack of experience? Given “only a village Bob Minor ringer” is representative of maybe 75% of ringers (and aspirational for 25%) it is a valuable perspective.

Handbell ringing took a surge with ringers in England in particular taking advantage of Covid restriction relaxation allowing groups to meet outdoors. Lockdown has created a new generation of handbell ringers, with



some great success stories like the peal of 147 Treble Dodging Minor with the footnote “first touch of spliced on real handbells”. Handbell ringing has definitely been my own personal lockdown progress – having not really progressed in ringing for as long as I can remember I have enjoyed rediscovering being rubbish.

Young ringers who missed out on subsidised eBells via ART can take advantage of some more funding made available from the generous donations of the ART Awards of the Handbell Stadium and eBells winners to the fund.

12th April brings back two mutually exclusive activities, in England at least. Young ringers' groups can restart under the ‘supervised children's activities in out-of-school settings’ guidance (see ccbr.org.uk/coronavirus for details), and adults can go to the pub and talk about ringing! I will be celebrating both by going to the gym.

Four bands of young ringers joined twelve others in the first (and probably last) Ringing Room call change competition, discovering that call change ringing on RR is really difficult, and doing so with closed handstroke leads is more difficult still. “May the team with the best internet connections win!” The competition was graced with expert judges in Paul Pascoe and Ian Avery, who helped design the format, and who awarded victory to the Beverley and District Online band. All teams rang the same test piece, being the first half of 60 on 3rds (slightly less if you started late because one of your band couldn't find their laptop charger). The prizes were a choice of books from the Central Council shop for members of the four winning bands. Special shout out to one of the stewards, George Hart, for choosing my own “Judging Striking Competitions” as his reward for a hard afternoon's work (bargain at £5).

Ironically that is a book that needs another chapter writing on judging Devon-style call change competitions. If I had an extra day in the week I'd write it (with due research). The Ancient Etruscans had eight-day weeks – quite clever really as that must have enabled them to get more done.

Ringing on Easter Day proved once again quite how divisive guidance for opening up ringing can become. One thing that is agreed though is that the sooner we get away from rules and guidance that are open to so much ambiguity and room for interpretation the better. Let's hope we don't start to have to deal with Covid passports for ringing.

There are over 100 ‘Recovery Champions’ now pulling together and thinking about how to help get ringing back to strength in their local area. Some Recovery champions are taking a very local view, maybe focused on a cluster of towers, while others are coordinating association-wide approaches. One association has allocated a budget of £10,000 to ringing recovery – if you have a rainy-day fund, it doesn't rain much harder than this!

SIMON LINFORD

“The Idiot’s Guide” by William Willans

A composer’s tips on calling his quarter peal of Grandsire Triples

From the Editor: “Congratulations on the recent anniversary of your venerable creation – I hope you were pleased with Maggie’s article! I wondered what you would think about writing a little follow-up, perhaps with some thoughts/tips on calling it?”

To which the answer is, yes, very pleased indeed. And as a follow-up, how about a look at “The Idiot’s Guide to 1,288 Grandsire Triples”? Carefully typed on my Olivetti “Dora”, in the room I occupied above the Lilian Eden Organ Studios, Finchley Road. Exactly when, I don’t recall, but not later than 1973.

How does it rate now?

Starting from the top, on the right hand side of the figures: “7th into ye hunt, 6th 4/5 (d-d) up.” Which is incontrovertible. Then, on the left: at the sixth lead: “6th long 3rds, 7th out”, and at the seventh: “6-7 together. (5 times, B-S-B-B-S)”. Quite so.

On the left hand side: “The two singles in each part always have either 4-5 or 2-3 together making 2nds / long 3rds.” And: “The two singles (with 6-7 together) in each part come when a particular bell is called out of the hunt ...” Which is well and good, but all you really need to know is that 2-3, 4-5 work in pairs, on the front and in 4/5.

To continue: “it is easiest to see this bell off the 6th, which follows the bell in the hunt to lead after making 3rds the lead before 6-7 are called together”. This, now, I might omit. You can see the bell in the hunt just as easily from 7, or any other bell. On the other hand, for someone taking a first step at calling, the clue might be helpful.

“There is one bell in each part which always d/dodges 4-5 up at the calls with 6-7 together – coming to lead after the 7th”. Indeed, there is; and I would add, it’s the key to the whole thing. Get hold of that, and the “working in pairs” of 2-3-4-5, and you’ve nailed it. I might have added the term “fifths place bell”, with an explanation.

Finally, on the left hand side: “Three times repeated”. I did well to underline. Once upon a time, a conductor stood a quarter up because he had thought the composition was a three-part. No names, no pack-drill.

The Idiot’s Guide to 1,288 Grandsire Triples

<p>234567</p> <p>- 752634 765423 746352 734265 723546</p> <p>s 567423 - 345267</p> <hr/> <p>324756 372645 367524 s 543267</p> <hr/> <p>524736 572643 567324 - 435267</p> <hr/> <p>423756 472635 467523 - 354267</p> <hr/> <p>325746 372654 367425 s 353267</p>	<p>7th into ye hunt, 6th 4-5 (d/d) up</p> <p>6th long 3rds, 7th out 6-7 together. (5 times, B-S-B-B-S)</p> <p>The two singles (with 6-7 together) in each part come when a particular bell is called out of the Hunt – this bell is</p> <p>3rd in first part 5th second 2nd third 4th fourth</p> <p>It is easiest to see this bell off the 6th, which follows the bell in the hunt to lead after making thirds the lead before 6-7 are called together.</p> <p>There is one bell in each part which always d/dodges 4-5 up at the calls with 6-7 together – coming to lead after the 7th. This bell is:</p> <p>2nd in first part 4th second 3rd third 5th fourth</p>
--	--

The two singles in each part always have either 4-5 or 2-3 together making 2nds/long 3rds

Three times repeated

The four part ends are:

453267
325467
542367
234567

*Vinni
pp. R. William Willans*

Did I say “finally”? On this copy, there’s a handwritten addition – “Vinni / pp. R William Willans”. Vinni Wild (now Sullivan) it had been, who copied this for Maggie (then Fanfani). And with its aid, Maggie embarked on calling it as her very first touch – ever, of anything – as conductor.

That had been at Washington Cathedral. During which, the Bourdon bell sounded the Angelus; fortunately completing during a spell of five plain leads: “anywhere else and we’d have lost it ...”

Perhaps I should have added, “Switch off the Bourdon first”.

1288 Grandsire Triples R W Willans

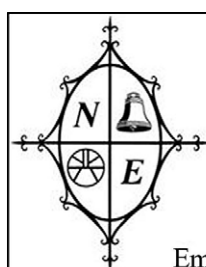
- 234567
- 752634 1
 - s 567423 5
 - 345267 1
 - s 543267 4
 - 435267 4
 - 354267 4
 - s 453267 4

Repeat 3 times

The same composition in condensed form

Answers to The Pub Quiz

1. Scrabble.
2. Past 8 o’clock.
3. Italy.
4. Sydney.
5. St Lambert.



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The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Charity Registration No 270036

Executive

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 8.00pm by video conference.

Present: Simon Linford (President), David Kirkcaldy (Deputy President), Mary Bone (Secretary), Fergus Stracey (Treasurer), Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett and Clyde Whittaker. Apologies for absence were received from David Smith. The Public Relations Officer, Vicki Chapman, also attended.

1. Financial matters

- The Treasurer reported that the 2020 accounts were now ready to be submitted to the Independent Examiner.
- The Executive **agreed** that the deposit for the 2022 NW ringing course should be paid from the Education Courses Fund. The final decision will be taken once the amount is confirmed.
- The Executive **confirmed** the offer of a grant of £1,000 from the Fred E Dukes International Bell Fund to St Philip's Eastwood, New South Wales. [The offer had previously been agreed by email exchanges.]

2. Workgroups

With effect from 1 July 2021, the Executive:

- **withdrew** the Terms of Reference (Standing Order XW1.3) for the Communications & Marketing workgroup;
- **renamed** the workgroup as the Public Relations workgroup;
- **approved** the following Terms of Reference for the workgroup:

XW 1.3 Public Relations

a) To promote the Council and bell ringing to the ringing community and general public, by:

1. Supporting the Council's Executive and volunteers to share information with the ringing community and via the media
2. Exploiting opportunities to promote bell ringing in the media
3. Managing the Council's media contacts, responding to media queries and writing/promoting press releases, articles and other information for publication/broadcast
4. Monitoring bellringing stories in the public domain, sharing stories of interest with Council officers and the bellringing community
5. Offering guidance to society PR officers, including on the handling of social media. Maintaining a suite of PR materials
6. Maintaining and implementing the Council's policies regarding publicity and ringing for public events
7. Supporting Council officers in dealing with the media as part of crisis containment.

- **appointed** Vicki Chapman as workgroup leader;

- **confirmed** the President as Executive sponsor for the Public Relations workgroup;
- **confirmed** Clyde Whittaker as Executive sponsor for the Senior Stakeholder Liaison workgroup.

3. Small Societies

- The Executive **appointed** Edward Sterland as Small Society Co-ordinator. This appointment will be subject to the usual review after six months.
- The Executive **noted** that the application process details and application form for any small society wishing to register with the Council were now available on the website at <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/governance/registered-small-societies/>.
- 4. The Executive received a presentation from Simon Meyer and John Hughes-D'Aeth on risk assessment by the Council. Further work on examining potential risks to the Council and its work, and their mitigation, will take place during the year.
- 5. The Executive had an initial discussion on ways to progress the recommendation in the 2017 CRAG report to reduce the number of representatives to the Council, based on feedback from the recent consultation process.
- 6. The President updated members on proposals by young ringers to form their own society. The Council's safeguarding officers, Dave Bassford and Ann White, were present for this item.
- 7. The next meeting of the Executive will be held by video conference on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

MARY BONE
Secretary

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

Congratulations to the whole band of firsts at number one this week, followed by three more mega-method-count handbell performances – 'first touch of spliced on real handbells' just goes to show what practising on the online simulators can do. Number five's band thanked Bryn and Leland on the anniversary of the first Ringing Room quarter peal. Just missing out on a top five spot (by one vote) was a RR quarter peal rung in the 'Tower of Fools', an anticlockwise ring of cowbells. Guess which day that was rung on?

Outdoor meetings are now allowed, leading to a flurry of handbell achievements. In Lincolnshire Katherine Jennings scored her first peal, a peal

Ringing Room
(Bardwell, Burwell, Thornham Magna, Wimborne) UK
Wednesday, 31 March 2021

1344 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Sylvie Fawcett
3-4 Ruth Suggett
5-6 Flick Warwick
7-8 Dee F Smith (C)
1-2: First Handbell Quarter.
3-4: First Handbell Quarter of Major.
5-6: First Handbell Quarter on an inside pair.
7-8: First Handbell Quarter as Conductor.
£2.00
👍 59

Ancient Society of College Youths
Yatton, Somerset
89 Wheatear Road
Friday, 2 April 2021 in 2h8 (11 in G)
5760 Spiced Treble Dodging Minor (147m)
Composed by J S Warboys (TD0801)
1-2 Lucy A Warren
3-4 Julian O Howes
5-6 Alan G Reading (C)
Most methods on handbells: 1-2 and 5-6.
Completes all three pairs to this composition: 3-4.
First touch of spliced on real handbells: 1-2 and as conductor.
First peal at the address.
👍 56

Guild of St Cuileáin
Reading, Berkshire
26 Redlands Road
Monday, 29 March 2021 in 2h36 (9 in B)
7200 Spiced Treble Dodging Minor (178m)
Composed by J S Warboys (TD1002)
1-2 Colin G Newman
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Jack E Page (C)
The first time this, the shortest composition of the standard 178, has been rung on handbells.
Most methods: 1-2 and 3-4.
£6.00
👍 46

Ringing Room, UK
Monday, 29 March 2021 in 2h50
5040 Spiced Major (23m)
224 each Bristol Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Cooktown Orchid Delight, Cornwall Surprise, Deva Surprise, Double Dublin Surprise, Ealing Surprise, Ely Surprise, Glasgow Surprise, Jovium Surprise, Kenninghall Surprise, Lancashire Surprise, Lessness Surprise, London Surprise, Mareham Delight, Painswick Surprise, Rook and Gaskill Surprise, Superlative Surprise, Venusium Surprise, York Surprise, Yorkshire Surprise, Ytterbium Surprise; 112 Double Norwich Court Bob. 160 changes of method, all the work
Composed by D F Morrison (no. 8266)
1-2 Philip J Earis
3-4 David J Pipe (C)
5-6 Julian O Howes
7-8 David C Brown
First Project Pickled Egg 23 Spliced in hand.
👍 37

The Bellerophons
Ringing Room (UK and USA)
Tuesday, 30 March 2021 in 54m
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
View composition
1 Christine B J de Cordova (Whitehaven)
2 Barbara D Murray (Preston)
3 Joseph A Sharp (Hook)
4 David B Wilson (Vancouver, WA)
5 Rosemary J Humphrey (Reddititch)
6 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke (North Leigh)
7 Sue Portsmouth (Sonning)
8 Simon J O Head (Bletchley) (C)
Celebrating restored vision for Chris, and the anniversary of the first Quarter Peal on Ringing Room with thanks to Bryn and Leland for bringing us all together.
First in m: 4,5.
First on 8 in Ringing Room: 1.
First surprise major on Ringing Room: 3,6,7, and as C.
£6.00
👍 30

of minor conducted by James Hibbert, and first in hand for him and Toby Hibbert. In York, Mark Ockelton celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first peal. And of course there was Easter, with lots of towers making a glad sound. Witley, Surrey rang for the first time since Christmas Day; for Great Barr it had been more than a year. The Anglesey benefice thanked their vicar, Sue Giles, for all her hard work and support over the last year. Many bands rang handbells to welcome their congregations. Final mention to Greg Chiu and Stella Johnson, who rang 720 Plain Bob Minimus while Greg was in a plane passing over Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden and Denmark.



First Peal Congratulations

Jennifer C Ellis (Sonning Common)
on handbells

First Peal as Conductor

Jennifer C Ellis (Sonning Common)

GUILD OF ST CUILEÁIN

GREAT LONGSTONE,

Derbys,
The Vicarage
Sat 27 Mar 2021 2h5 (13)
5040 Treble Dodging Minor
(3m: 1-2) Norwich S (3-4) Kent TB
(5-7) Oxford TB)
1-2 Jenny M Croft
3-4 Stephen J Hall
5-6 James S Croft (C)
1-2 First peal of Treble
Dodging Minor.
A birthday compliment to
Amy Ridsdale.

Peals unattributed to a guild, society or association

SONNING COMMON, Oxon,
26 Sedgewell Road
Sun 21 Mar 2021 1h53 (8)
5040 Plain Bob Minor
Comp. Trad.
1-2 Louise M B Ellis
3-4 Peter R Ellis
5-6 Jennifer C Ellis (C)
First peal in hand and first as
conductor: 5-6. **£2.25**

Submit any corrections to
performances@ringingworld.co.uk

First quarter congratulations

Ding, England. 1 Mar, 1260 St David Doubles: Louise Gay (Salisbury) 1, Benjamin Kipling (Trowbridge) (C) 2, Andrew Woolley (Calne) 3, Phill Payne (Tytherington) 4, Giles Wood (Trowbridge) 5, Bill Purvis (Tuebrook) 6. 1st Q: 6. For St David's day. **£4.50**

In Memoriam

Lismore, NSW. 21 Mar, 1260 Micromus Two (8p): Margaret Weatherby 1, Robert Weatherby Snr (C) 2, John Maloney 3. Rung in Memory of Russell Cook, much loved member of the Parish & the community during his whole life & a Licensed Lay Minister in the Parish, who died suddenly on Friday. Rung on bells 2,3 & 6 with ringers of 2 & 3 being a family/household bubble for Covid-19 purposes. Having rung a 2-bell method previously, ringer 1 challenged ringer 2 to produce some variety. So, the following methods were rung in addition to Cambridge; Gresley Loco (x12.12) named as it has 3 leads & lies 3 blows for Gresley valve gear on a 3-cylinder steam locomotive such as New South Wales Railways 57 class. Why? (x12xx12.12). Because (x12xx12.12xx12.12xx12). Pandemic (x12xx12). Mask (xxx12) Also called treble two by Chris Higgins. Plain Bob (x12). Cross See CCCBR methods library. Thankyou to Simon Chadwick for ideas of some methods & potential for naming 2 bell methods as "Micromus". 1st blows in all methods except Cambridge. **£2.25**

Ringing Room, Surrey. 13 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Ann Beirne 1, Diane Reynolds 2, Katharine O'Carroll 3, Milica Reardon 4, Susan Gibbin 5, Simon Beirne 6, Noel Gibbin (C) 7, Alan Cooke 8. 1st Grandsire Triples in Ringing Room for all. Rung by a Caterham & friends band in loving memory & in celebration of the life, of Bill Johnson (25th May 1931 to 5th March 2021). He had rung & worshipped at St John's Caterham since 2004. **£6**

Kirkbymoorside. 27 Feb, 100 Tolling: Adam Wheldon 6. In memoriam - a celebration of the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore (100 years).

Reading, Berks. (S Giles) 25 Mar, Tolling: Keith Vernon 6. Rung for the Funeral Mass of Isobel Webber who died 3 March 2021 aged 101. A member of St Giles Choir for many years.

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

Methods named

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

Ringing Room, UK (London & Manchester). 23 Mar, 1296 Minimus (6m): Jadd Virji 1-2, Andrew M Roberts 3-4. The following methods are believed rung for the first time: **Peterhouse Treble Bob Minimus** xxxxx14xxx12x34,14, **Clare College Treble Bob Minimus** xxx34x14xxxx14,12, **Pembroke College Treble Bob Minimus** xxxxx14xxx12x14,14, **Gonville & Caius College Treble Bob Minimus** xxx34x14x12xxx14,14, **Trinity Hall Treble Bob Minimus** x34xxx14xxx12x34,12, **Corpus Christi College Treble Bob Minimus** x34x34x14x12x12x34,14. Jointly conducted. **£1.50**

Miscellaneous performances

Frensham, Surrey. (S Mary V) 15 Aug, 75 Tolling: Harry Glover 8. To commemorate 75th anniversary of VJ Day.

Kilburn, London. (S Augustine) 21 Mar, 150 Grandsire Doubles: Charlotte Pacey 1, Elliot Hughes 2, Caleb Saunders 3, Guy Wells 4, Lucy Chandhial 5, Arsalan Mosavi 6. 150 changes of Grandsire Doubles & a plain course of St Augustine Bob Doubles rung after the service for the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Mass at St Augustine's parish in Kilburn. **£4.50**

Distributed miscellaneous performances

Ringing Room. (Haughton) 24 Mar, 40 PB Doubles: Dick Bowler 1, Trevor Stacey 2, Karen Powell 3, Mervyn Lock 4, Trevor Lock (C) 5, Jocelyne Lock 6. Rung in memory of Molly Jarvis who sadly passed away on 17th March aged 107. More details of Molly's link to the village can be found at www.thebellringers.org.uk.

Handbell Stadium. (Worcestershire & Herefordshire) 22 Mar, 720 Oswald D Minor: Richard Pullin (Hereford) (C) 1-2, Clare Bellis (Malvern) 3-4, William N Evans (Malvern) 5-6.

Handbell Stadium. (Worcestershire & Herefordshire) 25 Mar, 720 Oswald D Minor: Richard Pullin (Hereford) (C) 1-2, Clare Bellis (Malvern) 3-4, William N Evans (Malvern) 5-6.

General quarters

Alderney, Channel Is. (Neptune) 23 Mar, 1344 PB Major: Peter J R Bevis (C) 1-2, Helen M McGregor 3-4, Aileen Wilson 5-6, June Banister 7-8.

Oakleigh East, Vic. (1 Kendall Court) 22 Mar, 1260 PB Minor: Sue Pacey 1-2, Helen Pettet 3-4, Deryn Griffiths (C) 5-6. 1st handbell Q as C. **£2.25**

Distributed quarters

Ringing Room, Eastern Counties. 2 Mar, 1272 Norwich S Minor: Liz Griffith-Jones (Henham) 1, Andrew M Reeve (Kings Langley) 2, Liz Reading (Cold Ashby) 3, Vicky LeFèvre (Felsted) 4, Barry Jones (Bourne) 5, Alistair Donaldson (Market Harborough) (C) 6. 1st in m: 3. 1st as C on Ringing Room. **£5.25**

Ringing Room, Eastern Counties. 9 Mar, 1282 Cassiobury S Major: Diane Faux (Stamford) 1, Andrew M Reeve (Kings Langley) 2, Liz Griffith-Jones (Henham) 3, Vicky LeFèvre (Felsted) 4, Alistair Donaldson (Market Harborough) 5, Jim Benner (Bourne) 6, Julie Grimwade (Tewin) 7, Barry Jones (Bourne) (C) 8. **£6**

Ringing Room, Eastern Counties. 16 Mar, 1296 Spl S Minor (5m): Jane Walters (Waltham Abbey) 1, Alistair Donaldson (Market Harborough) 2, Andrew M Reeve (Kings Langley) 3, Liz Griffith-Jones (Henham) 4, Vicky LeFèvre (Felsted) 5, Barry Jones (Bourne) (C) 6. 1st on Ringing Room: 1. **£4.50**

Ringing Room, Som. 21 Mar, 1280 Spl S Major (8m): Wheatley 1, Wheatley 2, Wheatley 3, Wheatley 4, Wheatley 5, Wheatley 6, Wheatley 7, Heather E Davis 8. 1st 8 Spl Major on Ringing Room: 8. **£3**

Ringing Room, England. 22 Mar, 1250 Lincolnshire S Major: Ruth Jopp 1, Christine Broadley 2, Anne C Orme 3, Paul Jopp 4, Nicholas J Green 5, Stephen G Askew 6, Simon Humphrey (C) 7, Simon Humphrey (C) 8. **£3**

Ringing Room. 25 Mar, 1260 St Clement's CB Minor: Jim Stevens (Helmsley) 1, Anne Deebank (Levisham) 2, Gerry Bacon (Pickering) 3, C Anita Blundell (Kirkbymoorside) 4, Teresa M Jones (Brandsby) 5, Martin R Hall (Pickering) (C) 6. 1st in RR & of Minor: 1. Rung as a Birthday compliment to 3. **£4.50**

Ringing Room (Essex and Yorkshire). 24 Mar, 1260 PB Minor: Ann Woolley (South Woodham Ferrers) 1, David Reed (Shenfield) 2, Steve Halliwell (Rochford) 3, Hazel Steed (Chelmsford) 4, Andy Sutherland (Ilkley) 5, John Harpole (Ramsden Heath) (C) 6. 1st on Ringing Room: 2,3. **£4.50**

Kington & Presteigne, Herefordshire & Powys. 25 Mar, 1344 Alliance Minimus (2m): Geoff Cowling (C) 1-2, Lynn Scales 3-4. Rung via Facebook Messenger. **£1.50**

Ringing Room, USA. 26 Jan, 1320 Erin Cinques: Myles Louis Dakan (Northampton, MA) 1-2, Timothy J Barnes (Chatham, N J) 3-4, Susan K Fautsch (Coon Rapids, M N) 5-6, Bryn Marie Reinstadler (Cambridge, MA) 7-8, David B Wilson (Portland, OR) 9-10, Leland Paul Kusmer (Cambridge, MA) (C) 11-12. Birthday wishes to Morgan Kusmer (sister of the C) & Jen Reinstadler (mother of the 7-8). 1st Cinques for all except 3: 4. Completing Qs on all stages from Minimus to Maximus: 1-2,7-8,11-12. Rung with key presses or motion controllers & simulated sound. **£0.75**

Ringing Room. (USA) 23 Feb, 1296 TB Maximus (2m): Timothy J Barnes (Chatham, N J) 1-2, David B Wilson (Vancouver, WA) 3-4, Leland Paul Kusmer (Cambridge, MA) 5-6, Susan K Fautsch (Coon Rapids, M N) 7-8, Myles Louis Dakan (Northampton, MA) 9-10, Bryn Marie Reinstadler (Cambridge, MA) (C) 11-12. 1st Spl: 3-4. **£4.50**

Ringing Room, Heighington. 14 Mar, 1272 Norwich S Minor: Anthea Enzor 1-2, Ashley Law 3-4, Chris Enzor (C) 5-6. 1st in m in hand: 3-4. **£2.25**

Ringing Room, Heighington. 14 Mar, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Anthea Enzor 1-2, Kate Millar 3-4, Jennie Town 5-6, Chris Enzor (C) 7-8. 90th Birthday compliment to Margery Maughan. **£3**

Ringing Room, Hants. (Homelands) 15 Mar, 1264 PB Major: Maureen J Hanney 1-2, Ian M Redway 3-4, Martin J E Daniels 5-6, Alan D Elsmore (C) 7-8. Birthday compliments to Peter Hanney (17th March). **£3**

Ringing Room, UK. 20 Mar, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Lindsay Powell (Oxford) 1-2, Jonathan C Mills (Oxford) 3-4, David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 5-6, Samuel M Senior (Southampton) 7-8. 1st S Major in hand: 1-2. 200th Q together: 1-2,5-6.

Ringing Room. (Birmingham, Matlock, Birmingham, Great Barr, Sutton Coldfield) 21 Mar, 1280 Bristol S Royal: Alex Frye 1-2, Richard Angrave 3-4, Oliver Bates 5-6, Michael Wilby (C) 7-8, Richard Grimmett 9-10.

Ringing Room, Heighington. 21 Mar, 1320 Annabe's London S Minor: Anthea Enzor 1-2, Ashley Law 3-4, Chris Enzor (C) 5-6. 1st in m in hand: 3-4. **£2.25**

Ringing Room, Berks, Hants & Surrey. 21 Mar, 1344 PB Major: Karen White (Westcott) 1-2, Adrian Nash (Yateley) 3-4, Ian Redway (New Alresford) (C) 5-6, Janet Menhinick (Sandhurst) 7-8. A Highfield performance. 1st virtual Major: 7-8. **£3**

Ringing Room, Northern Hemisphere. 21 Mar, 1440 Norwich S Minor: Peter Kirton (Glasgow, Scotland) (C) 1-2, Isabella Scott (Chicago, IL) 3-4, Al Rossin (St Andrews, Scotland) 5-6. **£2.25**

Ringing Room, Oxon. 22 Mar, 1312 Kent TB Major: Alison T Merryweather-Clarke (North Leigh) 1-2, David L Thomas (Abingdon) (C) 3-4, Joe Norton (Wantage) 5-6, Lindsay Powell (Oxford) 7-8. 1st Kent Major on this pair: 1-2.

Ringing Room, UK. 22 Mar, 1260 St Clement's CB Royal: Lindsay Powell (Oxford) 1-2, David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 3-4, Joe Norton (Wantage, Oxon) 5-6, Craig M Robertson (Dunfermline, Fife) 7-8, Michele Winter (Oxford) 9-10. 1st in m: 7-8,9-10. 75th Q with 9-10: 1-2,3-4. 100th Q in hand: 9-10.

Ringing Room, USA. 23 Mar, 1320 Little Bob Maximus: Bryn Marie Reinstadler (Cambridge, MA) 1-2, Timothy J Barnes (Chatham, N J) 3-4, Susan K Fautsch (Coon Rapids, M N) 5-6, Leland Paul Kusmer (Cambridge, MA) 7-8, David B Wilson (Vancouver, WA) 9-10, Myles Louis Dakan (Northampton, MA) (C) 11-12. Birthday of the 3-4. 1st in m: 9-10. **£4.50**

Ringing Room. (UK) 24 Mar, 1250 Lincolnshire S Major: Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen) 1-2, Nicholas W Jones (Fort William) 3-4, Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld) (C) 5-6, Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh) 7-8. 1st Lincolnshire: 7-8. **£3**

Dixon's Bob Minor Variations

by John Eisel

Part 4: Decline and modern revival

To round out the story of Dixon's Bob Minor Variations we need to consider references from the 1880s until modern time. To conclude I outline the ringing career of John Thomas Hollis, whose work is central to this article, but whose contribution to the development of the 720 of Dixon's Bob Minor Variations has been air-brushed out of history.

A dispute

On 27th January 1880, more than two years after they asked for the figures, the Daresbury Society rang a 720 of Dixon's, which, according to the report in *Church Bells* of 31st January 1880, consisted of '138 Bobs, 6 Singles, and 6 Extremes.' On 6th March 1880 this was disputed by Richard Mackman, who claimed that since a 720 of Dixon's Variations only had four extremes, this could not have been Dixon's, and gave what the calling should have been.

'The calling is as follows:—When the 2nd and 4th leads is a bob; then the treble leads and the tenor dodges behind without the 5th; the singles are when the tenor dodges behind with the 5th; the extremes, when the treble leads and the tenor dodges in the middle, with the 3rd in the first half; in the last half when the tenor dodges in the middle with the 5th.'

This is the earliest definition of the method of which I am aware, and makes it clear that every time there is a variation from Plain Bob this is counted as a call, hence the very large number of bobs and other calls. It follows on from this that it is most likely, but not certain, that all of these calls were actually made, rather than some being rung as part of the method, as has been done in recent years, a considerable achievement on the part of the conductor.

Three weeks later a letter in response appeared over the name of Thomas Houghton, stating that what they rang was according to the information that they had previously received from Spalding, going on to say:

'As the part he disputes is the extremes, I will quote from the letter I received, and which I now have in my possession, the part which gives instructions for making the same (viz. its extreme when the 2nd brings treble to lead, and tenor is in the middle), no exceptions mentioned. Now this occurs six times in the peal, so accounting for our six extremes instead of four, and gives a true peal of 720 changes.'

There the matter lapsed. What is clear, however, is that in South Lincolnshire the name was generally applied to a particular 720, in the seventeenth century style. This is probably because it is a rule-based system, without leads of uniform length, and so not fitting into any neat classification. This view does not take into account Hollis's 720 with an even greater number of calls, discussed above.

More on the South Lincolnshire Association

On 23rd April 1881 the South Lincolnshire Association held its annual meeting at Stamford. The various touches rung on that occasion were listed in *Church Bells* on 30th April 1881, and these include a 360 of Dixon's Variations, rung at St Martin's by the same mixed company as has had performed previously. There is a suggestion that Dixon's continued to be rung at these meetings, but subsequent reports are less detailed. So, for instance, when a quarterly meeting of the South Lincolnshire Association was held Glinton on 20th January 1883, reported in *Bell News* a week later, 'some very good 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Treble Bob, and Bob Minor variations were rung.' Although not mentioned it is assumed that these were Dixon's Variations.

The high regard in which the first performance was held by members of the South Lincolnshire Association was evident when a muffled 720 of Bob Minor with a cover was rung on the bells of St Paul's, Fulney, to the memory of Henry Cutforth, of Maxey, who rang in the first 720 of Dixon's in 1868, a fact that mentioned in the report that appeared in *Bell News* on 20th October 1883. He had died on 8th October 1883 at the age of about 70, the report going on to say that he was 'greatly respected by the ringing community in these parts, whose loss they deplore.'

The local popularity of Dixon's Bob Minor variations was referred to in the obituary of James Dixon, who died on 23rd December 1883. Although his name does not occur in many reports of ringing for the latter part of his life, he was apparently active until his death, and in such was the regard in which he was held that the obituary that appeared in *Bell News* on 12th January 1884 included the following statement:

'The deceased gentleman was well-known and highly respected amongst the change-ringers of Lincoln and Northamptonshire, and he assisted in composing a peal which is called Dixon's variation peal of Bob Minor, and which is still rung and highly prized by the ringers of South Lincolnshire, on account of the number of calls the peal contains.'

I am unable to say how long this popularity lasted, as press reports of the activities of the South Lincolnshire Association became less detailed, as did reports that appeared in *Bell News*, but memories of Dixon's survived in the area into modern times.

Literary references, and attribution

There was, however, a reference to Dixon's Variations in the pages of *Bell News* in the

first half of 1887. On 26th February there was a query about the greatest number of calls in a 720 of Minor, and a response from Richard Mackman appeared a fortnight later, stating that 'the greatest number of calls I have seen in a peal of Bob Minor is 138 bobs[,] six singles, and four extremes, making 148 calls, and is called Dixon's variation.' This prompted John Spencer, of Bedford, to write the following week, who pointed out that James Dixon had only composed 616 changes, but that the full 720 was completed in 1868 by Mr. Hollis, of 'Glenton', going on to say:

'I should like to know if Mr. Dixon is rightly entitled to the peal or if Mr. Hollis is. I should like to see an answer to this in "THE BELL NEWS," by any of our ringing friends or by Mr. Hollis himself.'

This indeed is a valid question, and essentially the same situation as the credit for producing the first peal of Stedman Triples using only two common singles. A number of singles were removed by John Lates, but it was Thomas Thurstans who finally reduced it to two only, and the composition has since been known as Thurstans'. Certainly in this case the use of 'Dixon's' downplays the role played by John Hollis.

Spencer's letter was brought to the attention of John Hollis, and it is not surprising that he wrote to confirm what had happened, and quoted the two letters from James Dixon which I have referred to above. He also stated that on a subsequent visit he was presented with a copy of Hubbard by James Dixon, who said 'Accept this as a present from me, you have done well my boy.'

It is most likely that this presentation was the one which was referred to in *The Ringing World* on 5th January 1917. In that issue there was a report of an excursion on Boxing Day, 1916, when a party of ringers from the area rang at Maxey and Market Deeping. The report went on to give a transcript of the stone tablet at Maxey, but the interpretation given was incorrect. It seems to have been assumed that the ringing of Dixon's as recorded on the stone tablet was the full 720, which had been completed by John Hollis. saying that

'the "composer" was unable to produce a 720, and Mr. T. J. Hollis, a youth of 17 years, of Glinton, having studied "in and out of course," produced it for them, and was presented with a copy of Shipway, by Mr. Dixon.'

While this may have been Hollis's age when Dixon's was rung on 11th December 1863, we know for certain that the 720 was not produced until 1868, and evidence quoted below indicates that Hollis had a copy of Shipway prior to that date, so the writer of the report (J. J. Jutson, of St Mary's, Peterborough) must have assumed the presentation of Shipway, rather than that of Hubbard.

Modern times

On 29th July 1981 Charles Black of West Deeping, rang in a quarter peal with his grandson Alan, and a report on this event

(*RW* 1981, p.740) noted that the last time members of different generations of the Black family had rung a ‘peal’ together was that of Dixon’s Plain Bob Variations that was rung at Maxey on 11th December 1863, in which Charlie’s grandfather and great-grandfather took part. A note from the editor asked for details of Dixon’s, which were supplied by Charles Black as an appendix to a letter from him which appeared on 18th September, the rules having been given to him by the late Arthur J. Holmes of Edenham. The appendix also included a transcript of the stone tablet from Maxey. Charles Black had a deep interest in the performance at Maxey in 1863 which was even mentioned in his obituary which appeared in these pages on 28th February 1997.

... published with the footnote ‘First in a non-existent method for all’

I have nothing further until 1997, when a quarter peal of Dixon’s was rung ‘in hand’ at Clare College on 30th November, conducted by Ander Holroyd. When Philip Earis went up to Cambridge in 2000 he wasn’t aware of this quarter peal, or that Dixon’s was known outside South Lincolnshire where he had learnt to ring. A peal of it was rung at Maxey on 29th December 2001, details of which and an analytical article can be found at <https://www.cantabgold.net/users/pje24/article.html>. One attraction of the system is that it fell outside the very rigid Central Council classification! A handbell peal was rung at Clare College on 20th October 2002 and a 7,920 at Maxey on 11th December 2002, the latter being the 139th anniversary of the first successful ringing of Dixon’s (as a 616): details of all these can be found on BellBoard, as can reports of other quarters and touches of Dixon’s.

The most recent quarter peal of Dixon’s was rung at Upton Magna, Shropshire, on 5th October 2015, which was published with the footnote ‘First in a non-existent method for all (as of 2015 the Central Council does not acknowledge that Dixon’s Bob exists).’ Alan Glover, who rang the tenor to that quarter peal, tells me that while they were practicing intimation was given of when observation bells were leading, similar to the system used at Spalding, discussed above, but when the band became confident it was called in the traditional way.

John Thomas Hollis

One person who is important in this story is John Hollis, who produced the full 720 of Dixon’s Variations, but whose contribution is generally ignored. As mentioned above, he was christened at Glington on 9th November 1845. He had a younger brother Henry, who we have met in connection with ringing Dixon’s on handbells. In 1861 the census recorded that John Hollis was living with his mother and step-father at Glington, and that he was an agricultural labourer. This soon changed, and when his son George Joseph Shipway Hollis was

baptised at Glington on 21st July 1867 John Hollis was recorded in the register as a police constable at Kettering. The third of these baptismal names may suggest the source of John Hollis’s theoretical knowledge! In 1871 the family were living in Morton Pinkney, Northamptonshire, but subsequently moved to Wakefield, and he became a member of the Yorkshire Association in 1877. On 11th July 1885 Jasper Snowdon published an article in *Bell News*, the subject being the tapping exploits of Elijah Roberts. We have seen that John Hollis was an exponent of the art of tapping, and this stimulated him to write a letter in response, which appeared on 1st August 1885. In this he mentioned what he himself had done in the way of tapping changes:

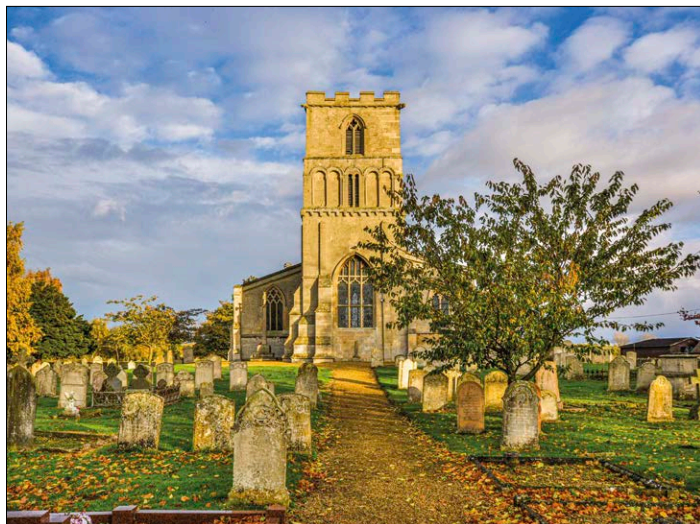
‘I commenced tapping changes about the middle of my teens, and have tapped off all the best known methods on five and six bells, to the extent of the changes, but never attempted more than plain courses or touches on the higher numbers, for the reason that, whilst I could tap off a 720 on six bells with ease, less than half the number on eight would cause the muscles to ache intensely, which was produced, as I imagined, by the increased action of the arms.’

He went on to praise the layout of Elijah Roberts’ bells, comparing it favourably with the set-up which he had used himself. Clearly, he was also gifted in the art of composition, and he has peals of Grandsire Triples credited to him and published in *Grandsire* in the Snowdon series of texts.

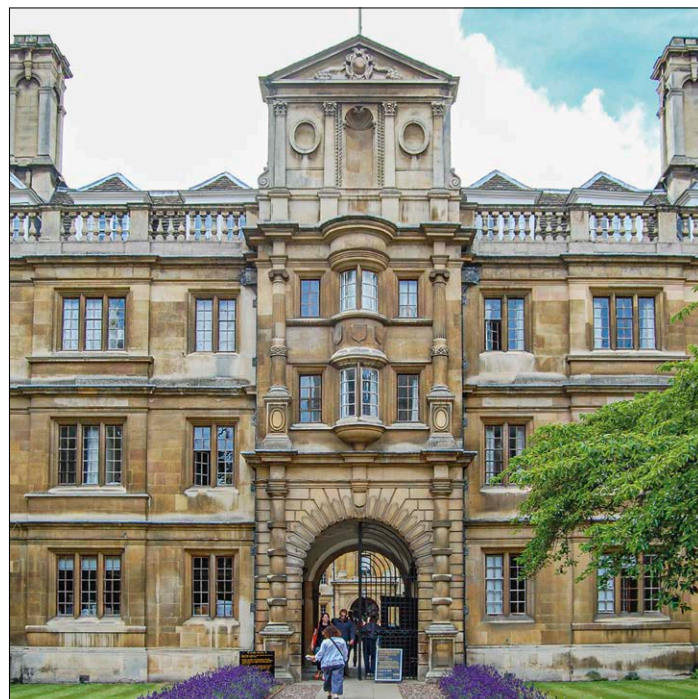
He rang a total of 15 peals for the Yorkshire Association, up to Kent Treble Bob Royal, the first being of Kent at Drighlington on 27th January 1883. Three of these peals were conducted by him, including one at Wakefield, rung by members of the committee of the Yorkshire Association, to which he belonged during the 1880s and early 1890s.

Due to his various postings as a police officer, he lived in a number of places, mostly around Wakefield. By 1891 he had been promoted to police sergeant, and about 1896/7 had a spell in Clitheroe, but moved to Normanton in 1900, and 1901 was living in Slaidburn, being recorded as a retired police officer. He moved to Walton, Peterborough, in 1906, and at the time of the 1911 census was living at Werrington, Peterborough. However, he moved again, and when he died on 18th October 1918 he was living at Norton-juxta-Malton, Yorkshire: no obituary was published in *The Ringing World*. In view of his evident capabilities it might be expected that he would have rung more peals, but his regular changes of address could not have helped, or maybe he just wasn’t very keen on peal ringing!

Continued overleaf



Maxey Church – the first peal and long length of Dixon’s Bob Minor was performed here in 2001 and 2002 respectively (Ben Keating)



Clare College Cambridge – the first quarter peal of Dixon’s Bob Minor in hand was rung here in 1997 and the first peal in hand was completed here five years later (yosoynuts (CC BY-ND 2.0))

Dixon's Bob Minor Variations

concluded from p.327

Conclusion

This four-part article has told the somewhat complicated story of the introduction of Dixon's Bob Minor Variations. I am aware that at there is a very large gaps in this, and if anyone has evidence that can help to fill it, then I would be very pleased to hear. As far as possible it has been compiled from contemporary evidence, and this shows that material published on the internet is not to be trusted. A Google search on James Dixon produces several sources which state that he was at the Ram Jam Inn, and that he bought Daniel Lambert's clothes in 1826, and then promptly changed the name of his inn. The lie to this is given in the contemporary evidence quoted above!

There is evidence which shows that there was a printed version of Dixon's, but I have not so far located a copy. Can anyone help? There is also the question of what was the original 616 of Dixon's Bob Minor Variations, and how Hollis adapted this. Does anyone know the answer to this conundrum, also what might have been Hollis's 720 with the greatest number of calls?

For those interested, an article on Crambo appeared in *The Ringing World* on 29th June 2012, stating the position as it was known at that time. Since then, I have shown that the information about a peal of Bob Minor, stated on the Felstead database to have been rung at Maxey on 11th December 1865, is both an incorrect reading of a date and a misinterpretation of what was recorded on the tablet at Maxey. This entry has now been removed to the invalid section.

Acknowledgments

As ever, Alan Glover has been most helpful, supplying details of John Hollis's later career, and answering a number of other questions. Gill Glover has helped with biographical details. Philip Earis has discussed recent developments with me, and Michael Foulds has told me of the problems a Surprise Minor band had when first trying out Dixon's! Mandy Loveder, tower captain and churchwarden of Maxey, has been most helpful, providing a photograph of the stone tablet which is referred to several times above, and has been very helpful with other information.

SOLUTION TO CODEWORD – PEAK DISTRICT BY NO MOCK HINTS (p.282)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y
3	4	1	9	13	6	17	2	19	20	16	5	12	7	21	8	10	14	11	18	22	15

Pairing-off (p.305) – solution

John Pusey, Oxford

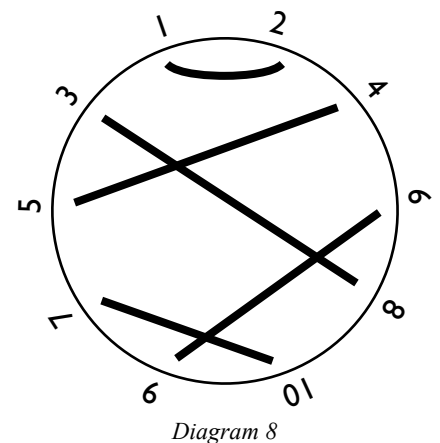
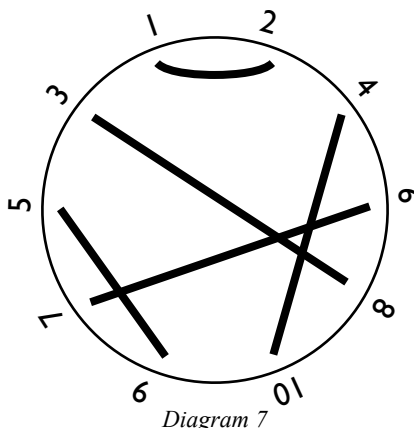
Puzzle A: There are two basic solutions for allocating 10 bells in pairs to ring plain hunt, so that each pair rings a different pattern: these are shown in Diagrams 7 and 8. (There are, of course, many transpositions, rotations, and reflections of both of these basic solutions.)

Pair Patterns: 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6

Rung by:

Diag 7: 1 + 2 5 + 9 4 + 10 6 + 7 3 + 8

Diag 8: 1 + 2 7 + 10 6 + 9 4 + 5 3 + 8



Puzzle B: Both for 12 and for 14 bells – just as for 4 bells or 6 bells – there are *no* possible arrangements in which each pair rings a different pattern (nor for 20 or 22, 28 or 30, etc).

Imagine the positions in the coursing order labelled alternately E and O round the circle, making an equal number of E's and O's. Any number of pairs linking an E to an O would be compatible with having equal total numbers of E's and of O's: but the 2-3 position requires an E to be paired with an E, which on six bells would leave an O to be paired with an O, which would mean having another pair also

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editor@ringingworld.co.uk

Stella Knight 1931–2021

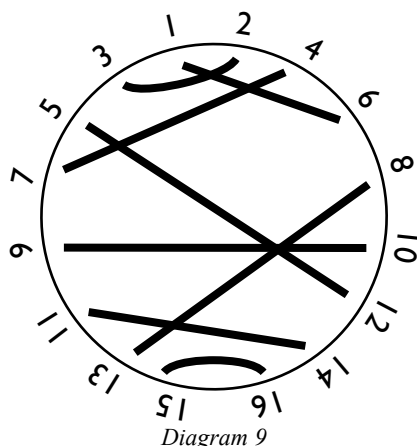
Stella was born Stella Wickens at a hospital in Brighton near the church of St Nicholas; she always said that at this precise moment the bells were ringing. Her parents lived in Sussex at High Cross between Albourne and Twineham, and they worshipped at Twineham church. Stella's father, Charlie, was also a ringer there and the keenest of the Twineham band; he was the only one to go out to other towers and take part in local Association events. He cycled to these and when Stella was about three years old he started taking her with him, carrying her on the back of his bike. She was well known to local ringers long before she could actually handle a bell!

The family moved to Blackstone but still continued attending Twineham church. With the ban on ringing during the Second World War, Charlie brought five handbells home from the church and taught Stella to ring 1-2 for plain courses of Grandsire Doubles, whilst he would ring the other three bells. In addition, Charlie had his hair cut by Charles Tyler in Henfield, another keen ringer and someone who also arranged handbell ringing; the three of them would ring Grandsire Doubles.

When the wartime ban was temporarily lifted in late 1942 to allow bells to be rung to mark the victory at El-Alamein, Charlie guessed that

ringing 2-3. Similarly, both on 12 and on 14, the three pairs 2-3, 4-5, and 6-7 would each require either an E-E or an O-O pairing, and in view of that, there is no way that the total for these three pairs could add up to equal numbers of E's and of O's. Etc.

Puzzle C. One possible solution for 16 bells is shown in Diagram 9. My very rough estimate is that there are probably about 20 significantly different basic arrangements for 16 bells which would have each of the pairs ringing a different pattern.



a further relaxation would be made in the near future so tied one of the bells at Twineham and taught Stella to ring. She was therefore able to ring at Twineham the next time bells were allowed, Christmas Day 1942. Stella had already been elected a member of the Sussex County Association due to her ability to ring on handbells.

In 1943 a further relaxation on when ringing could take place meant that Stella was taken out and about by her father to other ringing events. She could clearly remember the first time she rang changes on eight bells, and this was at Ditchling during an Association meeting in 1944 when she rang the treble to a plain course of Grandsire Triples. Keith Hart was asked to stand behind her; he was one of the leading ringers of his time and evidently had a fearsome reputation, but Stella always remembered him as being kind and willing to help with her ringing progress. In those days Stella and her father would think nothing of cycling to meetings at Buxted or Uckfield.

Away from ringing Stella was attending Woodmancote School, which in those days took children from five years of age until they completed their education at fourteen. It was then a choice either go to work or pass the scholarship to continue in education. Stella passed her scholarship, the first child from the school to do this. She then attended Horsham High School, cycling from home to Henfield to catch the first bus of the day to Horsham. Stella then went to Teacher Training College in Chichester, again on some occasions she would cycle home rather than use the train. After finishing her studies Stella obtained her first job teaching at Fareham in Hampshire.

Stella rang her first peal, Grandsire Doubles, at Twineham on 2nd September 1944 and for the next few years rang a steady number of peals each year. Her first as conductor, again Grandsire Doubles, was at Thakeham on 5th August 1946 when it was still a five-bell tower. In all she rang 21 peals, calling five of them; this included two handbell peals, and her last peal was in 1958. In 1949 Stella was elected as a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, a reflection of her ability within Sussex ringing. Stella was one of a group who regularly went on weekend ringing tours by bicycle, included in the company were the Brown twins (Harry and Stan), Edna Everest, Norman Smith and Ken Knight.

Ken Knight was a ringer at Bolney who also supported a few other local towers including Twineham. Stella and Ken started going out and got married at Twineham church on 28th April 1956; following this they set up home in Burgess Hill but continued ringing at Twineham. Their first child, Paula, was born in summer 1957 and about this time they were asked to consider helping to train a new band at Burgess Hill, which they agreed to do.

Ken then became tower captain at Burgess Hill but due to child care Stella wasn't able to go ringing at the same time as Ken; she had also started running a Sunday School at St Edward's church in the town. Stella was able to go ringing by herself on a different night of the week to Ken so would cycle to Bolney to help where a new band was being taught. When she had been younger Stella was a keen Girl Guide and was asked by the wife of the Rector of Twineham



if she would with her help set up a new Guide Company; this saw the 1st Twineham and Sayers Common Guides being started.

In 1965 Stella and family, now including two children (Paula and Roger), moved to Chichester and became members of the Cathedral band. This is where they continued ringing for many years, although they were still regular visitors back in the Burgess Hill and Twineham area. A further house move saw Stella and Ken living in Westergate and worshipping at nearby Aldingbourne.

By now Stella's mobility was becoming more restricted and so her ringing was curtailed, unable to manage the long climb up to the Cathedral ringing chamber. She supported Ken in his work to teach a new band at Aldingbourne when the bells were augmented to five in 1996. However, Stella was still a regular at District get-togethers and interested in what was going on, especially catching up with old friends. In 2016 Stella and Ken celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, first with a family event and then a Service of Thanksgiving held in Aldingbourne with many family members and friends in attendance.

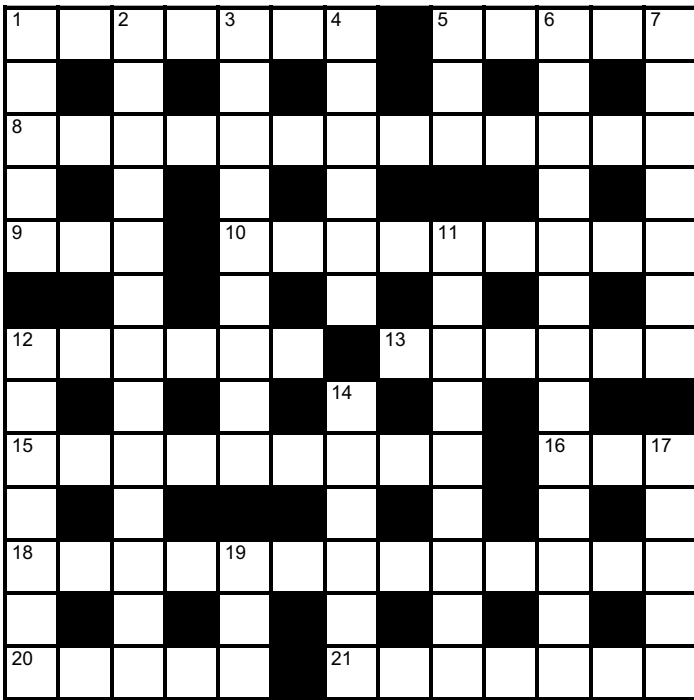
Stella's mobility continued to deteriorate, so much so that sadly Ken could no longer look after her at home and she had to move to Claremount Nursing Home in Fontwell. Here she continued to receive visits from many of her friends, especially those from Aldingbourne church, catching up and remembering her early ringing days. Not long after this Ken's health declined rapidly and he too moved to the same home, and passed away on 18th December 2017. Stella continued living at Claremount receiving visitors and chatting about her life. Hamish McNaughton, who lives close by, would call in to see her and only recently Stella asked him to obtain a record of the peals which she had rung. Stella passed away peacefully on 8th January, sat in her chair.

DAVID KIRKCALDY

Ringing Room. (Ladies Who) 15 Jan, 1260 Doubles (11m): Louise G Pink 1, Jennifer A Dearie 2, Pauline M Kennard 3, Sandra M Titherly 4, Anne E Franklin (C) 5, Elizabeth A Barnes 6. In celebration of the life of Stella Knight. £4.50

Ringing Room (Sussex, Surrey). 11 Jan, 1312 Kent TB Major: Karen White (Westcott) 1-2, Hamish McNaughton (Eastergate) 3-4, Jonathan Franklin (Ringmer) (C) 5-6, George Francis (Warnham) 7-8. A thanksgiving for the life of Stella Knight. £3

CROSSWORD by John Clark



Across

- 1 A unit of sound intensity (7)
- 5 This clue is a mistake (5)
- 8 Toll the tenor for Old Norse and Latin (4,9)
- 9 Curate's breakfast? (3)
- 10 Non-conformist ringer (9)
- 12 Take industrial action, hit a bell with a hammer! (6)
- 13 Sub-zero suspender (6)
- 15 Fees paid for nominally free services (9)
- 16 The Big Apple (3)
- 18 A fearful shower (they say) ruled Revolutionary France 1793-94 – rot! (5,2,6)
- 20 Term of endearment discouraged by dentists (5)
- 21 "Rock on the Rhine" – Legendary German siren (7)

Down

- 1 Evasive action (5)
- 2 What conservatives don't want to do but we all like to practise (6,7)
- 3 Loughborough has one (4,5)
- 4 Oddly, not necessarily a long piece of ringing (6)
- 5 Flightless bird from Hull (3)
- 6 Recover after missing the Sally (6,7)
- 7 Favour for a political candidate (7)
- 11 Christmas comes, but ... (4,1,4)
- 12 Ball Bearings (7)
- 14 Dickensian Dodger's epithet (6)
- 17 Royal companion (5)
- 19 Goes with neither (3)

SOLUTION TO KILLER SODOKU
No. 12 (p.306)

1	4	9	2	3	5	6	7	8
3	2	5	6	7	8	1	4	9
7	6	8	1	4	9	3	5	2
2	9	6	5	8	7	4	3	1
4	5	7	3	9	1	2	8	6
8	1	3	4	2	6	5	9	7
5	8	1	7	6	4	9	2	3
9	3	4	8	1	2	7	6	5
6	7	2	9	5	3	8	1	4

Leadhead = group a/g (13527486)
reading clockwise from bottom centre.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S METHODOKUS (p.306)

- #66 Double Cambridge Cyclic Bob Minor
- #67 SONNOS Surprise Maximus

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S KILLER METHODOKU (p.306)

#2 Silver Differential Doubles

TWISTED STRANDS
by Lynx



Twist these strands to find the connection:

- Ketamine
- Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper
- Six-Five
- Who Dares Wins

The Sea Islands Angela Newing

There are 12 churches on the sea islands, 4 each on Newsey, Oldsey and Persey. Two churches have a single bell, another 2 have 2 bells, two have rings of 3, there are two 4s, two 5s and 2 sixes. Each of the four towers on an island has a different number of bells, and each has 2 sets of odd bells and 2 even.

Only one island with a ring of 2 also has a 5, and only one island with a 6 also has a single bell. Oldsey has one of the rings of 5 and also either a 4 or a 6 but not both. The number of bells on each island is different. Newsey has a ring of 5.

What bells are there on Persey?

The Pub Quiz

(answers on p.319)



1. Alfred Mosher Butts was the inventor of which famous game?
2. Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town at what time?
3. Which country surrounds San Marino?
4. Where were the 2000 Summer Olympics held?
5. Which mysterious saint is the second dedicatee of Stonham Aspal church?

See a ringing term you don't understand?
Over 800 words and phrases explained at
jaharrison.me.uk/Ringing/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 ccbr.org.uk/shop



notices@ringingworld.co.uk

Rates from 1st January 2020

Ringling 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
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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

Meeting on Saturday April 24

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS. AGM. The LACR AGM will be held by Zoom meeting at 2pm on Sat 24.04.2021. Please see www.lacr.uk or contact Beth Ingham, beth.ingham@mac.com for more details. 2001

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.

Stuck in a Wormhole

“I’ve been thinking.”

“Not again. We have been through all of this before. You doing thinking does not help.”

“I know. Anyway, I have been looking at a few graphs. The C of E looks to be in steady decline but the Catholic Church appears more stable for numbers. If we get lots of redundant bells kicking about perhaps there are some towers there where bells could be found new homes?”

“I’ve got another idea. It looks like there are enough bells for ringers to have one each. If their bell become redundant they could take it home and keep it in the shed or something.”

“If we all had our own bells then we could just take them with us wherever we went ringing. People like me who just like ringing their own bell would always be happy wherever they were.”

“Might need to clear the junk out of the shed and empty the boot of the car first.”

“I can see a few problems with that.”

“Can’t you just concentrate on the positives for once and use your imagination to solve the difficulties? It just needs some thought.”

“And some lifting.”

“I’ve been having a go on Ringing Room. I am a bit short of friends so I have been ringing with the robot. It goes a bit quick when I am ringing with real people. I think it needs a “Plain Bearings Running Dry” option to slow things up a bit.”

“You are looking a bit pensive. Worried about getting back up the tower?”

“Not at all. I was just thinking it might be handbells in the pub garden this time next week, if we can get out of this wormhole. Not that I can ring handbells. But I can sit in pub gardens”

“A portal. A portal. My collection of very interesting ringing artefacts for a portal!”

AJB

Thought for the week

What a year we have had, as last Easter passed by in the first national lockdown, and we have travelled through many trials and tribulations to reach this Easter, now emerging from lockdown, to be able to celebrate in a limited way the great festival in church this year. Some churches will have been able to have handbell bands ring outside to announce the Resurrection; others will not have been able to ring due to the size, geography, confidence of ringers to meet up, social distancing rules, etc.

But let us not be pessimistic. It seems as if the last year, since March 2020, has been an extended Lent full of privation out in the desert. The desert of deprivation from our familiar ways of living and working. Now we have travelled with Jesus into Jerusalem, proclaimed him King, turned against him and shouted for his death, before arriving at the greatest day of all, Easter Day, the day of Resurrection, a day of rescue, joy, a new beginning.

Jesus’s resurrection puts all life into a new perspective which we will certainly experience in the days and weeks to come as lockdown eases and life begins a new normal, visiting relatives, friends, re-establishing our ringing and working out with clergy, churchwardens when and how visiting ringers can be welcomed. Will we be able to ring that long-promised peal to commemorate an event? The resurrection creates hope for the present and the future because God is present in all creation, which one day will be transformed and brought to its fulfilment.

Faith in the resurrection changes the way we live. John 20:1–18 tells the story of the resurrection and the women being the first at the tomb. They had a roadmap, a plan of action on arrival at the tomb, but this was confounded on arrival at the garden because they did not think about the stone across the tomb entrance and who would move it for them. However, they were not panicked because their plan hit a rather bigger plan. They saw a young man dressed in white sitting at the right hand side of the tomb. He frightened them, asking, were they looking for Jesus of Nazareth? The women could not take in what the young man was saying. They were not afraid of death, or of handling the dead body of their beloved master, but they were afraid of the empty tomb and the words of astonishing hope being spoken to them. He is has been raised; he is not here!

What fear and amazement was expressed by the women as they looked into the tomb? What does that really mean to us seeing the empty tomb? Through the resurrection there is hope of new life, a new life informed by understanding that the suffering and pain of Jesus crucifixion and his burial are an integral part of the hope of new life. It is the hope that God is indeed God, creator, source of all life. So as we listen to the words spoken by the angel, the words of joy and hope: he has been raised – let these words be believed, made real and acted upon to others in the world around us.

Christ is risen. Alleluia! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

RHONA MCEUNE
Licensed Lay Minister,
Binbrook, Lincolnshire

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The image of the week is fifteenth, sixteenth and eighteenth century bells outside St Michael's Church, Alnwick (pronounced "AN-ick"), Northumberland as photographed by **Graham Clifton of Whites of Appleton** who was on-site removing the bells last month with the assistance of local volunteers. Although hung full circle, the bells have been unringable for many decades.

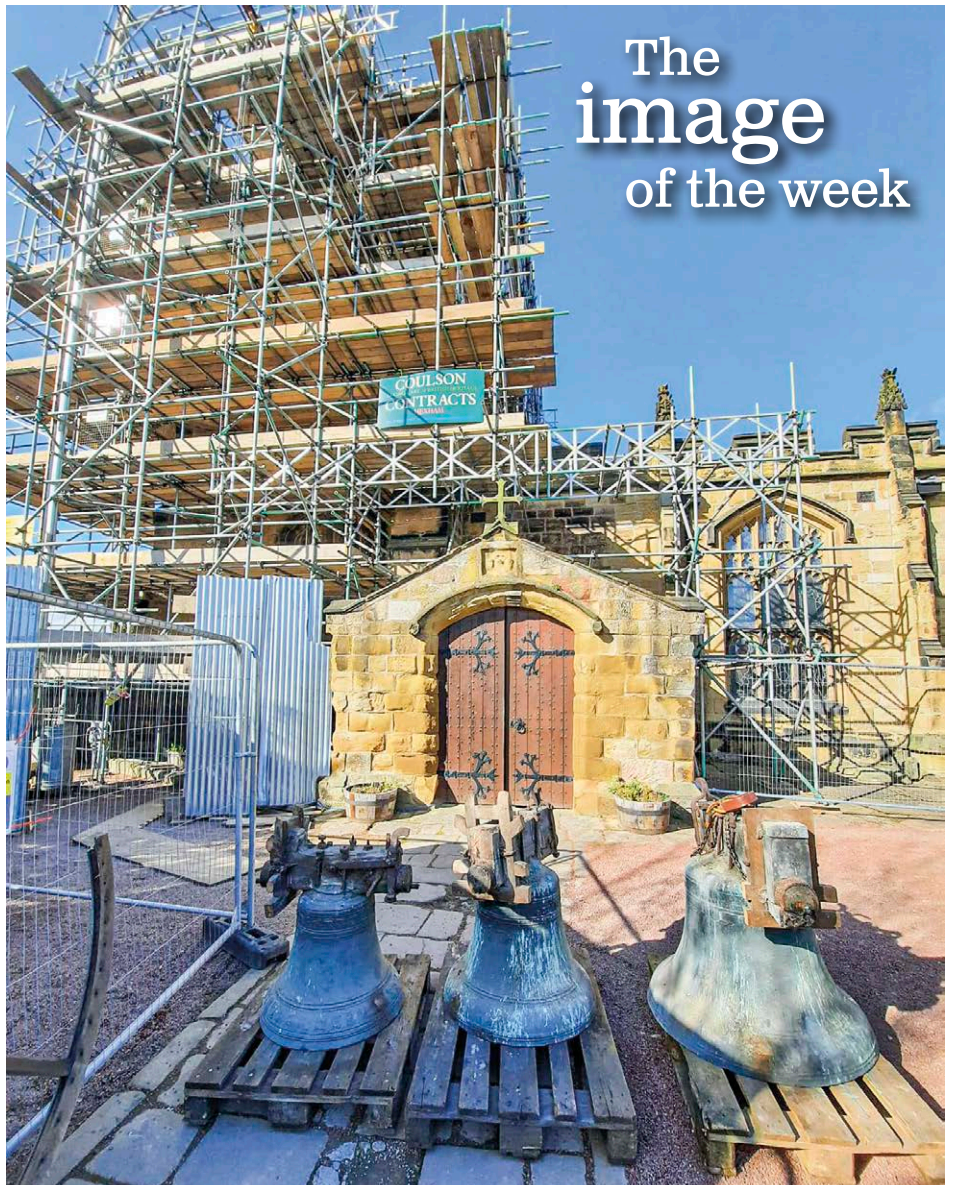
Owing to the enthusiasm of **Jim Crowther**, the three bells are due to be replaced with a ring of ten in 2021. The basis of the new ten is the 1873 Warner six (tenor 11-1-18 in G pre-tuning) that formerly hung at St James, Newton Hall, Northumberland; they have been donated by the Keltek Trust. Taylor of Loughborough have cast four new trebles (which have been sponsored locally) to augment the bells while Whites of Appleton will be tuning the whole ring and hanging the peal in a new frame.

The fifteenth and sixteenth century bells will be returned to Alnwick with the new ring and put on display in the refurbished ringing room while the 1764 tenor (~8½cwt), a recasting of a medieval bell, is going to the Keltek Trust. St Michael's tower is currently shrouded in scaffolding as it is also being restored as part of the project.

Alnwick, the former county town and seat of the Dukes of Northumberland, currently has two sets of unringable bells: St Michael's (Anglican) and St Paul's (Roman Catholic). St Michael's, the ancient parish church (with the ring of three), started life as a Catholic place of worship prior to the English Reformation. Conversely, St Paul's Church was built to accommodate the town's growing predominantly Anglican population in 1846 at a cost of £12,000 by Hugh Percy, Third Duke of Northumberland. St Paul's Church became redundant in 1979 and was later sold to the Roman Catholic Church in 1982. Thus, St Michael's, originally a Catholic Church is now Anglican while St Paul's, which was built as an Anglican Church, is now Catholic!

The peal of eight (tenor 18-3-23 in E♭) at St Paul's Church was completed in 1874 in memory of Charlotte Percy, Dowager Duchess of Northumberland. Bells 1, 4, and 8 by Charles and George Mears are contemporary with the building while the remaining bells were supplied by John Taylor & Co. 28 years later. However, the bells have been unringable since at least the 1960s.

With the installation of the new ring of bells at St Michael's this summer, Alnwick will have an operational ring of bells for the first time in over half a century. The new ring at St Michael's will be the second ring of ten in the county after the millennium augmentation at Hexham Abbey. We wish the new band every success.



The image of the week



St Michael (left): the new ring of ten is to be installed in the summer of 2021 by Whites of Appleton (David Kelly Keltek Trust)

St Paul RC (right): the ring of eight, completed in 1874, hasn't been ringable since the 1960s – the second of only two peals was rung in March 1901

(Richard Vince CC BY-SA 2.0)

