



Middlesex Bell News

Issue 94

June 2018

www.mcaldg.org.uk



Thank you, Prudence Fay:

Our previous editor, Prudence Fay, produced Bell News for 14 years, and at the April AGM of the Association was made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of her long-standing services over many years as a ringer and a District and Association officer. After assisting in the production of this issue, Prudence will hand over her green eyeshade and blue pencil to enjoy her well deserved retirement.

Association AGM

Stephen Mitchell writes:
The MCA's Annual General Meeting was held in the church hall of St Andrew's, Uxbridge on 28 April. There was an excellent turnout with over 50 members present, and the President, Geraldine Forster, in the Chair. At the meeting, the 200 Club draw for the annual prize of £1,000 was made, and the winner was Caroline Stockmann.

All the current Officers other than the Master, John Manley, were willing to serve and were re-elected. The Chair thanked John for all his hard work in the past year, and said the Committee hoped to be able to find a Master for election at the autumn AGM.

The Bell Restoration Committee proposal for grants of £5,000 to St Mary, Acton (currently unringable bells), and to SS Peter & Paul, Harlington (cracks found in the bells) was approved.

Roger Bailey Cup

Hillingdon was the setting for the inter-district Striking Competition held on 28 April. The test piece was a touch of 216 Plain Bob Caters, judged by Chapman Knott and Rebecca Gingell. Each district put forward two separate bands for the contest, which were placed as follows:
1. *S&W*, conducted by Stephen Mitchell.
2. *N&E*, conducted by Steve Jakeman
3. *S&W* conducted by Mike Palmer
4. *N&E* conducted by Louise Booth.

Bell Restoration

Stephen Jakeman, Bell Restoration officer, writes:
At St Paul's, work has now commenced and the bells can be removed from the tower now that a route has been agreed by all parties. Completion is still planned for November so that centenary Armistice ringing can take place. The BRF has made new awards to Acton and Harlington. At Acton, work is required to the wheels and the 4th which has developed a severe case of the 'dropsies', to enable the bells to be rung again. At Harlington an additional grant has been made towards the extra £10k required to weld the 7th which cracked while having the remains of its cast-in staple removed and other works now required.

At Ealing St Mary, work is in hand to prove the structural integrity of the tower so that the necessary repairs can be made to have these bells back

in action. At Hampton, the new incumbent has indicated his support for improvement works to assist recruitment, teaching and training. Odd noises have been identified and rectified with the 5th at Wood Green.

Summer School

Alec Gray writes: Last year's Bellringing Summer School was an outstanding success (see ART award <http://ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards/2018-winners/Lucy-Chandhial>). So, with support from Aviva, we're running it again 10:00-16:30 Mon 30 Jul 6 Fri 3 Aug at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington.

The aim is to recruit a dozen or more new to ringing, and teach initial bell handling with other entertaining instruction on ringing history, ringing theory, change ringing on handbells, bell maintenance, and listening skills. We are inviting a large number of known experienced bell handling tutors, and others to lead the classroom and other sessions out of the tower.

More helpers wanted

Can you help with this training and recruitment drive?

- *If you are an experienced tutor we may have missed;
- *Help with ringing rounds;
- *Handbell ringing;
- *Theory & history talks;
- *Stewards (& washing up!)

You don't have to be present every day; if you can do just two or three days contact me: london.bellringing.school@gmail.com.

Daytime practice

Emma Cracknell writes:

The first daytime practice of the N&E ringers on 21st March was a huge success. With 17 attending from across the district, the tower at All Hallows, Tottenham was comfortably full. The practice was led by Helen Porter and, as you would expect from someone who has since become District Ringing Master, was well organised, balanced for all levels of ability, and allowed everyone ample opportunity to 'catch hold'.

The practice began with a contest to stand each bell immediately at hand stroke when pulling off from back stroke, with mixed success among the visiting ringers. The ringing itself ranged from basic rounds and called changes through to minor and triples methods, including Plain Hunt, Grandsire, and Little Bob among others.

Eight ringers gathered for lunch after the ringing at the local community pub, The Antwerp Arms. Helen had booked our visit and arrangements had been made for the chef to come in specially for us. He proudly served us with generous portions of tasty food which we all enjoyed. Many thanks to everyone involved in organising and running the practice. Next daytime N&E practice:

20 June - all welcome

MCA 8-Bell Striking Competition 26 May

Tom Lawrance writes. The Middlesex 8-bell competition took place on a balmy afternoon at St Mary

Staines. 6 teams took on the bells, easy-going but odd-struck. Richard Pullin (Hereford) judged, and his positive comments were much in keeping with the friendly nature of the contest. Thank you, Richard.

Foster Lane fielded two bands and the Middlesex Ladies rang a competitive touch. Local ringers made up a Staines/Stepney band, coming a creditable 3rd. St Margaret's Westminster retained the trophy with St Giles-in-the-Fields runners-up. Marlene Howell and Anna Leach made the arrangements, and Elizabeth LeMoine provided welcome sustenance. Thanks to them and all participants.

Next year's competition:
Saturday 25th May 2019

N&E 12-bell practice

Lucy Chandhial writes: A first for the District! On Sunday 29th April I joined a group of 19 ringers at Shoreditch for the first general 12 bell practice for the N&E district run by Steve Jakeman. We rang rounds and call changes through plain hunting to Grandsire Cinques.

With a good balance between experienced twelve bell ringers and others, like me, looking for an informal opportunity to try the next step, we rang to a good standard throughout. Steve managed to challenge and stretch us without overwhelming us and it was right to have a full two hours as every ring takes longer on twelve bells. Shoreditch has a reasonably easy-going set of bells and no close neighbours so is

easy to book despite having no regular practice night. This was a tower grab for me so I've rung at one more of the Oranges and Lemons towers! The next general 12 bell practice at Shoreditch is Sunday 30th September and all who are comfortable on 8 or 10 are welcome.

Handbells for Noye's Fludde

Martin Clode writes: On 23 & 24 March the Hendon Ringers with a couple of friends took part in three performances of Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde. Britten wrote the piece to be performed by the community, incorporating a choir of children, bugles, recorders, professional and amateur musicians, and handbells. Having found 2 extra ringers we spent 6 weeks rehearsing with our 12 handbells which are a semitone sharp for the actual piece. A week before the performance we borrowed 12 of Harrow on the Hill's bells in E b for the final rehearsals and the performance itself. Even with all that practice the first night was disappointing (for us), however the two performances on Saturday were much better with a brilliant final performance. The experience really opened our eyes to the difficulties of this pesky tune ringing, as Roger Bailey called it.

A huge thank you to the Harrow on the Hill handbell ringers for the loan of their bells, especially Sonia Field for organising the loan, and to Siân Parry and Janet Betham for making up the band.

Janets' (& John's) Jaunt

Helen Forrester writes:

Some 20 ringers, some with children, from towers across the Association met at Orpington station early on Saturday 21 April. From Farnborough, a mile from Orpington station, we walked 2 miles across in brilliant sunshine to Downe, a pretty village, home of Charles Darwin for 40 years, commemorated by a sundial on the wall of St Mary Magdalen church (though in his lifetime Darwin's views were anathema to the then incumbent). Ringers of varying levels of experience rang rounds and call changes, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and Cambridge Minor. Lunch in the walled garden of the Queen's Head, can be recommended.

After lunch those with children left, and we walked 4.5 miles to West Wickham. The weather was perfect: the trees were bursting into leaf and clouds of bluebells beginning to bloom.

A steep climb to a plaque recording that William Wilberforce sat there in 1788 with Mr Pitt and resolved to move the abolition of the slave trade in the House of Commons. Thence we descended into Keston Vale, to the church of St John the Baptist, West Wickham. Ringing included touches of Grandsire, Cambridge Minor and Norwich, rounds and call changes for those newer to ringing.

On the train back to London from Hayes, Helen Porter for the party thanked

Janets Drake and Betham and John Betham for a well-organised day out which had raised £146 for the Bell Restoration Fund.

Next Jaunt 6 October !

N&E 6-Bell Striking Competition

Lucy Chandial reports:

On a sunny Sunday at Wood Green the District 6-bell competition attracted 9 entrants. Stephen and Tracy Coley were supportive judges, awarding the first three places to:

1. Islington St James, 5 faults
 2. Aldgate, 9 faults
 3. Enfield St Andrew, 13 faults
- Aldgate won the Novices competition with 33 faults. This was a well-supported and very useful event.

U3A shows the way !

John Sutton writes:

The Richmond branch of U3A Organisation has around 1000 members and over 100 interest groups, ranging from Pub Lunches to Mandarin Chinese! With encouragement from Steve Mitchell and Otto Benz I emailed all Richmond U3A members to test the water for this recruitment initiative.

Our first session in April 2015, on the newly restored bells at All Hallows, was attended by 11 prospective new ringers and 6 experienced ringers. Most learners have stayed with us, several covering quarter peals of Doubles in 2017. Today we regularly have up to 18 ringers at our lively Wednesday morning

sessions and welcome new members. The Group is primarily intended for beginners, but we also ring plain hunting and simple methods ó even calling touches.

Several U3A learners now ring with us on Sunday mornings, have joined the Middlesex Association, participate in District striking competitions, and come on local band ringing outings, including to the Isle of Wight in May 2018. Come and visit us!

The U3A Group website is: <https://u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames/page/46501>

The Hunt Goes On

Tue Sando, Training

Officer, writes: For a new ringer, mastering Plain Hunt is like passing the driving test. On 28 April N&E district held its first Plain Hunt course of the season at St John at Hackney, led by Steve Jakeman who as always made the learners feel at ease so they could focus on learning - and learn we did! All six students had limited experience in plain hunting from our home towers and everybody went away with a spring in their step, feeling that new doors had been opened. The course was twice oversubscribed so Steve will generously run a second at St Anne, Stamford Hill on 9 June. Special thanks to the helpers who gave up their Saturday morning to help us stumble in to ringing adulthood! Debbie Malin, Janet Betham, Helen Porter, Ruth Jakeman, Colin Cherrett, Martin Clode and Hans Rashbrook.

Calendar

Date	District	Event	Venue	Time
Sun 3 June	S&W	6-bell striking competition	St Dunstan's, Cranford	14:30-17:30
Fri 8 June	MCA	12-bell practice	St Magnus, EC3R 6DN	18:30-20:30
Sat 9 June	S&W	8-bell Ringing meeting, all welcome	All Saints, Chelsea	10:30-12:00
Sun 10 June	N&E	10-bell methods practice	St John at Hackney	14:30-16:30
Tue 12 June	S&W	Isleworth daytime practice, general ringing	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30-12:00
Tue 12 June	S&W	6-bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00-21:30
Thu 14 June	N&E	7- & 8-bell practice	St Mary, Islington	19:30-21:00
Fri 15 June	S&W	8-bell Surprise Major practice	Harlington UB3 5AD	19:45-21:15
Sat 16 Jun	N&E	Highgate Fair, BRF fundraising. See below.	Highgate	12:30-17:30
Wed 20 Jun	N&E	District midweek practice	St James, Islington	10:00-12:00
Fr 22 June	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 22 June	S&W	District 10-bell practice	Tower - TBA	19:45-21:30
Tue 3 July	N&E	5- and 6-bell practice	St Mary, Enfield	19:00-20:00
Sat 7 July		Ringing World National Youth Contest	St James, Garlick Hill	All day
Sun 8 July	N&E	10-bell methods practice	St John at Hackney	14:30-16:30
Tue 10 July	S&W	Isleworth daytime practice, general ringing	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30-12:00
Tue 10 July	S&W	6-bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00-21:30
Wed 11 July	N&E	10-bell general practice	Christchurch Southgate	19:30-21:00
Fri 13 July	MCA	12-bell practice	St Magnus, EC3R 6DN	18:30-20:30
Sat 14 July	S&W	Ringing meeting	Harrow Weald - TBC	10:30-12:00
Wed 18 July	N&E	District midweek practice	St Mary, Kilburn TBC	10:00-12:00
Fri 20 July	S&W	8-bell Surprise Major practice	Harlington UB3 5AD	19:45-21:15
Sat 21 Jul	N&E	District Outing, Oxford. See below.	Oxford towers	All day
Fri 27 July	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 27 July	S&W	District 10-bell practice	Tower - TBA	19:45-21:30
Sun 29 July	N&E	6-bell method practice	Tower - TBA	14:30-16:30
30 Jul-3 Aug	MCA	London Bell-ringers Summer School	Based Kensington	10:00-17:30
Fri 10 Aug	MCA	12-bell practice	St Magnus, EC3R 6DN	18:30-20:30
Sat 11 Aug	S&W	General Ringing ó all welcome.	St Mary, Hampton	10:30-12:00
Sun 12 Aug	N&E	10-bell methods practice	St John at Hackney	14:30-16:30
Tue 14 Aug	S&W	Isleworth daytime practice general ringing	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30-12:00
Tue 14 Aug	S&W	6-bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00-21:30
Wed 15 Aug	N&E	District midweek practice	TBA	10:00-12:00
Fri 17 Aug	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington UB3 5AD	19:45-21:15
Sat 18 Aug	N&E	District half-day outing	South Herts - TBA	Afternoon
Wed 22 Aug	N&E	District 5- & 6-bell practice	Bow in the Road	19:30-21:00
Fri 24 Aug	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 24 Aug	S&W	District 10-bell practice	Tower - TBA	19:45-21:30
Sun 26 Aug	MCA	300th Anniversary Grandsire Triples	Individual towers	All day
Sat 1 Sept	S&W	District ringing meeting	Chiswick - TBC	10:30-12:00
Mon 3 Sept	N&E	5- & 6- bell practice	Edgware	19:30-21:00
Early Sept	MCA	Heritage Open Days, 6-9 & 13-16 September	Any tower willing	As arranged
Sun 9 Sept	N&E	10-bell methods practice	St John at Hackney	14:30-16:30

Raise money for the BRF at the Highgate Fair, Pond Sq, Highgate: Good-quality gifts, home-made produce, plants etc. will be most welcome, also help on the day setting up, selling and clearing up. This is a very popular fair, with fun for all. See email on 15th May for details, and contact Janet Betham on jrbetham@hotmail.com to offer help.

N&E District Outing, Oxford 21 July: Frequent train services from Paddington taking about one hour (parking in Oxford virtually impossible). Walk between the 6 towers, lunch after the first two. 09:45 for the first tower, ending at the Carfax tower to ring till 18:30. See emails nearer the day for more details.

Daytime ringing: There are now midweek opportunities to ring during the day for all who may be free, and daytime practices at the weekend. All welcome to support these events.

Requests for training: Angela McLellan (angelamclellan@hotmail.co.uk) welcomes requests for specific training requirements. If you would like help with any aspect of ringing, let her know.

Middlesex Bell News editor Anthony Davey, Anthony@smoketree.eu; next deadline Friday 17 August 2018. **Distributor Janet Betham (020 8340 1368, or at jrbetham@hotmail.com).**

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