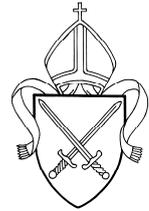


Middlesex Bell News

Issue 95

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St Paul's Bells

Philip Lewis reports:

St Paul's bells became progressively more difficult to ring from the mid-1990s. Work in 2000 achieved some improvement but under the new Surveyor to the Fabric a full restoration is in hand.

Canons on bells 1 to 8 have been removed and Taylors of Loughborough are providing modern headstocks, calibrated to achieve best results. The bells are being cleaned and 140 years of grime removed. The frame is being strengthened under the direction of the Cathedral Engineer. The bells will not be re-tuned, although cleaning may improve their tone.

The internal route used to install the bells was ruled out, so the bells were extracted using a lifting beam supported by scaffolding on the outside of the tower, a spectacular sight, attracting much interest from tourists and City workers.

Plans are to restart ringing by late October and to hold a re-dedication service on 1st November, the 140th anniversary of the original dedication.

Costs have been met entirely by charitable donations, mostly from the City bodies which funded the bells originally, the BRF, individual ringers and other ringing charities - a total of over £420,000. The St Paul's Chapter and community have expressed sincere thanks to all these supporters.

S&W 6-Bell Striking Competition

Mike Wigney reports:

6 teams took part in this year's competition, which was held on 3rd June in hot sunshine at Cranford, judged by Steve Jakeman, Angela McLellan and Debbie Malin. Results were 1. *Chiswick*, 2 *Staines*, 3. *Hillingdon*, followed by *Twickenham S*, *Acton* and *Twickenham O*.

Bell Restoration

Stephen Jakeman, Bell

Restoration officer, writes:

The BRF exists to provide money to assist in necessary maintenance and improvement work. I hold a collection of stays, sliders, and much else, and I'm always ready to provide advice and guidance and assist where needed in organising remedial work.

A number of important maintenance jobs are progressing. Acton (wheels, and the bearings of the 4th), Hampstead and St George-in-the-East (re-bushed clappers), and Kilburn St Augustine (stay replacements). At Homerton (a 3-bell 5cwt anti-clockwise ring) the distance boards on the baldrick clappers were so worn that one bell actually fell silent during a recent wedding, now repaired. Harlington's bells are on holiday in Dorset, being refurbished by Nicholsons of Bridport. No. 7 is being welded to repair cracks caused by removal of the iron staples.

Thanks to Janet Betham for yet again organising a stall at the Highgate Fair in June.

Janet and helpers raised over £300 for the BRF. Well done!

London Ringing Summer School

Information from James White

The second Summer School took place for a week at the end of July. Organised by Louise Booth, James White, Stephanie Pattenden and Tue Sando it was based at St Mary Abbots, Kensington where the training bells were invaluable.

The course was funded by a community grant of £1,000 from Aviva and fees of £75 each from the 12 students. Noting feedback from last year, the committee arranged that at least 50% of the students' time was spent in the tower. Excellent talks were given by Sam Cave on theory, Paul Flavell on history, and Clyde Whittaker on essential listening skills. With an entertaining and informative tower session with Steve Jakeman on bell maintenance, and wide-ranging talks from Simon Meyer and Alan Regin MBE, on Ringing Remembers, the students were inspired to see ringing in its full context.

The course aimed to secure recruits likely to continue ringing, and to tutor them to be able to ring rounds. A roll-call of very experienced ringers volunteered to teach, supported by helpers and Saturday follow-up sessions are arranged. Results will be carefully assessed against the course objectives. *(A fuller report is in Ringing World).*

Half-day Outing Bedford Bells

Janet Drake writes:

Nine of us from the N&E District had an enjoyable half-day outing in Bedford. We were made welcome at St. Andrews, St Peter de Merton, and St Paul's. This last is a 12 bell tower, so even with help from a friendly local ringer we had to leave two bells unring.

Interesting churches, particularly St. Peter's with part of the tower dating back to Saxon times. After our efforts we had a pleasant drink overlooking the river Great Ouse. Few, if any of us had rung at Bedford before. It was just a pity there were not more of us to enjoy the experience.

(For those of you who are sailors or boaters, we were told you could take a boat from Bedford to Ely and beyond - now there's a thought!)

Recruitment

The effort to recruit new ringers is reaching its peak. The Ringing Remembers project set a target of 1,400 recruits, the number of ringers killed in WW1. By the start of July well over 1,000 new ringers had been identified and drawn in to the Exercise, many motivated by the opportunity to ring in memory of a relative killed in the war.

The Summer School students are all either already in touch with a home tower or have been given contact details. All towers have been encouraged to welcome where possible recruits referred to them.

*Stephen Mitchell,
Association Secretary,
reported on 18th August:*

Just in the last week or so I have processed about 40 expressions of interest in learning to ring, or returning to ring, generated by national publicity. Over the last year I must have received around 75 overall. Most of these were sent to me by Ringing Remembers. Some came direct to me via the Middlesex Association website.

I respond to individuals, linking them to the most appropriate towers for their post-codes, and copying my emails to a local contact asking them to contact the prospective ringers. Some (not all) copy me into the next steps.

As Secretary I am not in a position to follow up each referral, unfortunately, and it remains to be seen how many go on to become Middlesex ringers.

Learning lessons

Jamie Singleton, 'Ringing Remembers' coordinator with the Big Ideas company writes: I started in my role as Ringing Remembers Campaign Coordinator with little previous knowledge of ringing, but I decided to give it a go, learning at Foster Lane with Tom Lawrence and really enjoying it!

Ringing lets me switch off stress and focus on ringing but I struggle with impatience! I still cannot control the bell fully and ring how I would wish. Managing this slow progress is important for retaining new learners,

but this is also one of the great things about it; it is not easy to do and the sense of reward and achievement is big.

Since I have been learning I have asked many friends and acquaintances for their perceptions of ringing. There is a mix of responses, but I find that bell ringing can sometimes be perceived as a bit unusual, old-fashioned and perhaps only for people who are religious. I feel these preconceptions can be a barrier for many potential ringers.

Entering this new world takes a certain amount of bravery, particularly for those who are not acquainted with churches, and the welcome from existing ringers can make a big difference for new learners.

MCA October Meeting

Janet Drake writes: The Association Autumn General Meeting and the 6-bell striking competition will take place on 20th October. The programme is:

At Cranford
2-3.30 p.m., MCA 6-bell Striking Contest.

Competition finalists are Aldgate, Chiswick, Enfield, Islington, Hillingdon, and Staines, with the 2017 winners, Acton and Stepney.

At Hayes
3.30-4 p.m. general ringing;
4-4.30 p.m., the service;
4.30-5.30 p.m., tea and raffle; please think about donating a prize!
5.30 p.m., the meeting;
about 7-8 p.m., general ringing.

November 11th Ringing Remembers

Helen Porter, Ringing Master, writes: The N&E District wants to ensure that all district towers that want to ring to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice on 11th November can do so - general ringing or a quarter. An email has been sent to all tower contacts asking for any plans and I shall be following this up.

It's up to towers when they want to ring, be it as part of the national plans or at other times ó see the note on page 4. Naturally it won't be possible to ring at all towers at the same time but we will do our best. I shall also be asking for volunteers to support ringing during the day in due course. Keep an eye out on the mailing list!

S&W Outing

Mike Wigney writes: Keep Saturday 13th October free for the district outing. We shall ring on the new 24cwt Taylor 8 at Godalming. Installed in 2017 this will be an unusual opportunity to try out a complete modern set of bells. We shall also ring at three further towers, and enjoy a pub lunch.

All are welcome; details will follow on the MCA email list and website calendar, or you can contact me directly on mike.wigney@dhl.com

S&W Quarter Peal week is from Saturday November 3 to Sunday November 11, the day of Ringing Remembers. As in previous years, Linda and I shall arrange

days of quarters on Nov 3 and 4. It is always good to see firsts, whether a first quarter, first inside, first minor, first on 8, first as Conductor etc. Contact me if you would like to take part or if you need assistance to make up a band. Also if you are unable to raise a band for Armistice Day, then I can probably arrange something in your tower on either the day itself or on the Saturday. Or arrange a quarter or two yourself!

N&E District Outing

Carrie Rutherford writes: This outing gave us a chance to ring on different bells in new towers including, on this occasion, privately-owned college towers not normally accessible. But also, being a district outing, it provided a chance to ring with new people.

The date had been originally booked by Steve Jakeman through the Oxford Society Secretary, but our inboxes were soon filled with emails from Janet Betham, warning of travel problems with cars, trains, and London's underground. July 21st was a very hot day and the towers were welcome sanctuaries between the promised 15-minute walks.

We started with two very differently-weighted ten-bell towers before lunch, St. Mary Magdalen and Magdalen College. After lunch we continued with Christ Church Cathedral, a heavy twelve, and then descended to St. Thomas the Martyr, another ten, then

Lincoln College, a light eight, and Carfax, a well-behaved six - plus a chance to go up on to the roof to see Oxford and beyond. We had 36 ringers including three from the S&W district. Oxford ringer Jonathan Cresshull gave up his day with a friend Joanna, to guide us around Oxford and support us in the towers.

Learning Ringing Teaching training Day

Sian Christophers writes: Early on Saturday 23rd June James Thomas and I set off from Finchley to All Saints Edmonton. Our mission:- to learn how to teach bell-ringing. Clyde Whittaker had organised the day with Pip Penney, an experienced ART tutor, to teach us.

First, bell handling and after some theory we headed off to the tower to get our hands dirty. Pairing up we practised teaching each other. Pip explained the techniques exceptionally well, and even very experienced ringers declared that they had learnt something new.

Lunch was prepared by Clyde and Val Golding, a local ringer who had given up her morning to welcome and refresh us ó thank you, Val !

After lunch further theory, and more practice. The whole course was very well delivered by Pip, enjoyable and well worth getting up early for. Thank you to everyone involved.

And finally ...

Congratulations to our Training Officer, Angela McLellan, on her 50th QP!

Date	Distr	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 1st Sept	S&W	District ringing meeting	Heston TBC	10:30 ó 12:00
Mon 3rd Sep	N&E	5 & 6 Bell practice	Edgware	19.30 - 21.00
6th ó 9th Sept	MCA	Heritage Open Days –week 1	Towers to arrange	As arranged
Sun 9th Sept	N&E	10 bell methods practice	Southgate	14:30 - 16:30
Tues 11th Sept	S&W	Isleworth ó general daytime practice	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30 ó 12:00
Tues 11th Sept	S&W	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Thu 13th Sep	N&E	10 Bell general practice - all welcome	St Clement Danes	18.30 - 20.30
13th-16th Sept	MCA	Heritage Open Days –week 2	Towers to arrange	As arranged
Fri 14th Sept	MCA	12 bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Sat 15th Sep	N&E	LearnersøOuting (by car)	Southwest Essex	All day
Wed 19th Sept	N&E	District weekday practice	St Clement Danes	10:30 ó 12:00
Fri 21st Sept	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45 - 21:15
Sat 22nd Sep	N&E	London Open House	St Botolph Aldgate etc	All day
Fri 28th Sept	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 ó 20:30
Fri 28th Sept	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30
Sun 30th Sep	N&E	12 Bell general practice	Shoreditch	14.30 - 16.30
Sat 6th Oct	N&E	J & J Jaunt	Details to follow	All day
Tues 9th Oct	S&W	Isleworth ó general daytime practice	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30 ó 12:00
Tues 9th Oct	S&W	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Wed 10th Oct	N&E	5 & 6 Bell practice	Isle of Dogs	19.30 - 21.00
Fri 12th Oct	MCA	12-bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Sat 13th Oct	S&W	District outing	Godalming area	09:30 ó 17:30
Sun 14th Oct	N&E	10 bell methods practice	TBA	14:30 - 16:30
Wed 17th Oct	N&E	District weekday practice	St Mary, Monken Hadley	10:00 ó 12:00
Fri 19th Oct	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45 - 21:15
Sat 20th Oct	MCA	Association Autumn meeting 6 bell striking competition General ringing, service, tea, & ringing	Cranford Hayes	14:00 ó 15:00 15:30 - 20:00
Fri 26th Oct	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 ó 20:30
Fri 26th Oct	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30
Sat 27th Oct	MCA	London 12 bell - Whitechapel Trophy	Cornhill	11.00 - 18.00
3rd ó 11th Nov	S&W	District Quarter Peal Week	TBA	
Thu 8th Nov	N&E	5 & 6 Bell practice	St Anneø, Highgate	19.30 - 21.00
Fri 9th Nov	MCA	12 bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Sat 10th Nov	MCA	Lord Mayor's Show	St Mary le Bow Cheapside	10.30 - 12.00
Sun 11th Nov	MCA	Armistice day – Ringing Remembers	Individual towers	See below
Sun 11th Nov	N&E	10 bell methods practice cancelled because of Armistice Day and Ringing Remembers		
Tues 13th Nov	S&W	Isleworth ó general daytime practice	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30 ó 12:00
Tues 13th Nov	S&W	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Fri 16th Nov	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45 - 21:15
Sat 17th Nov	N&E	District half-day outing	Pimlico area towers	14:00 ó 18:00
Tue 20th Nov	N&E	10 Bell general practice - all welcome	St Clement Danes	18.30 - 20.30
Wed 21st Nov	N&E	District weekday practice	TBC	10:00 ó 12:00
Fri 23rd Nov	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 ó 20:30
Fri 23rd Nov	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30
Thurs 29th Nov	N&E	6 bell Method practice	Details to follow	19:30 ó 21:00
Sat 1st Dec	S&W	Planning meeting and ringing	Hillingdon	09:30 ó 13:00
Mon 3rd Dec	N&E	London Ringers Advent Carol Service	St Giles in the Fields	19.30 service
Sat 8th Dec	N&E	Association Christmas ring	Westminster, St Margaret	16:30 ó 18:00

Ringing Remembers, Armistice Day

Towers are invited to ring (general ringing, quarter peals, whatever suits) at 12:30 in accordance with the British and German government suggestion in celebration of the anniversary of the cessation of fighting and the coming of peace. Towers may also wish to ring at 19:05 to celebrate øBattleø Overø organised by Bruno Peek MBE. These invitations are intended to be additional to usual service ringing which towers undertake.

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey, editor, at anthony@smoketree.eu. Next deadline, 17 November 2018.

The newsletter is distributed by Janet Betham (020 8340 1368, or at jrbetham@hotmail.com). Material for the **website** should be sent to your District Webmaster: Anthony Davey (N&E) Anthony@smoketree.eu; James White (S&W) jw_home@ntlworld.com.

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