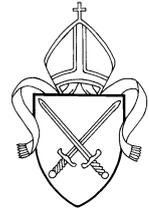


Middlesex Bell News

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www.mcaldg.org.uk



Well deserved recognition

Dennis Brock, who has been ringing at Sunbury for more than 85 years, and who turned 98 in November, was awarded the St Mellitus medal by the Bishop of London on 9 September. The award was given at a special service in St Mary, Sunbury, and was for Dennis's long and distinguished service to St Mary's, where he was baptised, confirmed and married, and where he taught hundreds of people to ring, as well as for his service to the diocese of London, and to bell-ringing in London and the Home Counties. We offer our hearty congratulations!

Some striking achievements

London 12-bell

The MCA Master, Geraldine Forster, writes: The Association took part in the **London 12-bell striking competition**, held this year at St Sepulchre's, Holborn, on 22 October. The bells are easier to ring than those at Cripplegate last year, but the method, half a course of Cambridge Maximus, was arguably more of a challenge. A few of the band who rang so well at Cripplegate were unavailable this year, but their substitutes had all either rung regularly at our monthly 12-bell practices or taken part in MCA 12-bell QPs throughout the year.

With five 'elite' teams out of nine taking part (the ASCY

fielded two teams), the competition was tougher than last year. Could we match, or even improve upon, our huge leap last year from bottom place to 5th? You bet we could!

We rang very well, with no method mistakes and very few striking errors. The results were announced in reverse order by the judges, Linda Garton, John Loveless, and Simon Read, and we waited with bated breath as we rose up the rankings, to an excellent 4th place (83%). We were hot on the tail of one of the College Youths teams in 3rd. St Paul's won, with the SRCY in 2nd place.

I am so proud of this band, and delighted with the effort everyone has put in to achieve such good ringing. A special mention for Mary Gow, who was ringing in her first 12-bell competition, and a thank-you to James White who was our reserve.

1 Mary Gow, 2 Joanna Dorling, 3 Geraldine Forster (C) 4 Ruth Corney, 5 Stephen Mitchell, 6 John Manley, 7 Sam Cave, 8 David Woodward, 9 Ben Kipling, 10 Michael Palmer, 11 Simon Meyer, 12 Lucy Woodward

District 6-bell Finals

Stephen Mitchell writes: The Association's 6-bell Striking Competition was held on 15 October, at St Mary's, Hanwell. Six teams rang two 120s separated by a few whole pulls of rounds. The judges, Ben Kipling assisted by John Manley, aggregated their marks for each 120, as set out below:

1 Staines, St Peter's: 39 + 22 = 61 faults. **2 Aldgate:** 64 + 34 = 98 faults. **3 Ealing:** 54 + 61 = 115 faults. **4 Islington:**

102 + 65 = 167 faults. **5 Hillingdon:** 95 + 89 = 184 faults. **Kilburn:** did not complete the piece.

Staines retained the Association Plate as overall winners; Aldgate won the Rhodesia Plate, for the best 120 not won by the winners.

Try 'our' method

James White writes: **Middlesex Bob Triples** is quite a popular method for quarter peals, certainly in the MCA area, for obvious reasons; but is much less so for peals. The first is recorded as being at St Mary's, Twickenham, in 1733. The next was in 1979!

According to the Felstead database, there have been only 17 peals in this method, but another has now been added — at Denham, just outside the MCA area. Before this, two peals in the method were at Aldgate in 2002, (c) Stephen Jakeman., and Pinner in 2015, which I conducted, so Association members have done a bit to popularise 'our' method. It is worth ringing as a pleasant alternative to Plain Bob Triples.

New lead

After 13 years at the helm, Eddie Hartley stood down from the post of Tower Captain at All Saints', Fulham, on 31 October. Susan Reed, who has been a member of the Fulham band for 24 years, took over on 1 November. Reach her at sureed67@googlemail.com or 07986 711 990; other tower officers on bells@allsaints-fulham.org.uk

Nine QP firsts

Mike Wigney writes: Many thanks to everyone who took part in, or helped in any way with, **the S&W Quarter Peal week (1-8 October)**, by ringing, conducting, arranging quarters, or letting ringers in. It was very successful: over 60 people took part in more than 30 attempts, with 26 successes; and £216 raised for the BRF. The firsts were: *Matthew Stephens*, first Grand-sire inside, and first Reverse Canterbury; *John Sutton*, first Minor inside; *Bridget Campbell*, first Triples as conductor; *James Mercer*, first Cambridge S. Minor; *Peter Whisker*, first Yorkshire S Major; *Sonia Field*, first Grandsire Doubles; *Nick Cant*, first Yorkshire S. Major; *Geoff Shacklock*, first mixed Doubles, also first Triples inside; *Jackie Harrison*, first on 10.

Speaking from experience

Peter Blight writes: The bells at **St James's, Prebend Street**, are now ringing again after a seven-month gap for the installation of mobile-phone equipment in the tower — work that was scheduled to last eight weeks! It is not yet completely finished, so we expect another period of non-ringing before long. However, the ringers were consulted before the work began, and so were luckier than ringers at some other churches.

During the project, I liaised with the contractors, and made **notes about the experience** which might help others who are starting down the same road. They are available online at www.ringing.info/phone_masts.html

James White writes: On Sunday 30 October, **Acton** bells rang out for the first time since February, when they also were silenced for the installation of

telecommunications equipment in the tower. It will be no surprise to learn that the work took longer than expected (and is still not complete), but it also started early, causing a peal scheduled for Easter Day to be relocated to Edmonton.

The bells are certainly no easier now, and the celebratory QP of St Simon's Bob Triples we scored was quite hard work. The bells are louder outside, since much of the blockwork behind the louvres has been removed so that the antennae can 'see and be seen'. We will gradually move back to the programme of monthly QPs, largely on Sundays after services.

North goes south

Janet Drake writes: On 19 November about 13 ringers from the N&E District crossed the Thames for a **half-day outing** in three towers on the other side. The lightness of the Walworth 8 took a little time to adjust to, but some enjoyed them, and Helen Schofield could ring the tenor to triples — a rare treat for her! At Borough and then at Waterloo Road we joined forces with Surrey ringers, who were also on an outing. This made for a large group of ringers, but also some good ringing. Thanks to Lucy Chandhial for arranging a good afternoon.

Damp but delightful

Jess Pumphrey writes: Saturday 1 October, 9:15am, on the autumn **Jaunt**. The 14 Janets, Johns and jaunters who hadn't been put off by the weather forecast lurked apprehensively in Maidenhead station as the rain rattled on the waiting-room roof. But sunshine met us in Marlow, and the tower was just around the corner, so we started on the ringing

straight away. Marlow is an eight, and we rang some nice triples and major.

By the churchyard there was a pretty stretch of river, spanned by a historic bridge. We turned away from this, and walked through parkland along the river bank. By now it was raining, so we all got very wet, as parkland gave way to equally squelchy fields full of cows. The King's Head pub was a welcome sight, and was especially cosy, being both packed and tiny. Food and beer were great. Afterwards, walking along the disused railway to the next tower, we dried off -- unlike the ground, which prompted warnings from passers-by, and a rousing chorus of "Mud, mud, glorious mud!" Birds of prey swooped above us, and were identified as red kites.

The bells at Wooburn were another nice eight, slightly heavier than Marlow; and we managed some respectable and enjoyable ringing. The rain now started again, but fortunately it was then a very short walk to either the pub for tea, or the bus stop for the journey home. It was a fun day over all.

Thank you to the organisers, Janet D., Janet B. and John B, and to my fellow walkers. Together, after tower donations, we raised £60 for the BRF.

A happy ending

Linda Foddering writes: On 16 October the Archdeacon of Northolt took a wonderful and well-attended service for the **rededication of Norwood Green bells**. Refreshments were served, and ringers tried out the bells, which are now much sharper, and a pleasure to ring.

Showing how it's done

Margaret Peirce writes: We once again arranged ringing talks and demonstrations at St Botolph's, Aldgate, for **Open House weekend** in September. Fire precautions now limit the number of visitors in the tower at any one time, so this year Tim Mills gave the talks in the Peace Chapel, telling visitors something of the history of ringing, and how it was done. Those people then ascended the tower in groups of 10, where Keith Barber gave a brief explanation of how a bell is rung, and 8 ringers demonstrated with a short touch of Grandsire Triples.

Nine groups were accommodated during the day, and were all very appreciative. Many thanks to those involved in the long day: ringers, stewards and caterers. Selling refreshments raised more than £50 for the BRF.

Catering for all comers

Mike Wigney writes: On 29 October, the **S&W district had its outing** in the Waltham Abbey area. More than 25 people, from both districts, came for most or all of the day. The five towers all had good bells, and all very different: the Gillett & Johnson 8 at Cheshunt, the fine 37-cwt 12 at the Abbey, a nice 6 at South Mimms, at North Mymms 8 bells that are rung from steps on a gallery, and the 10 at Hatfield with long unguided ropes, well behaved for those who could pull straight. We had a good lunch at the Black Horse in South Mimms.

Stephen Mitchell adds: Highlights of the ringing were well-struck 8-Spliced Surprise Major at N. Mymms,

and a two-course touch of Stedman Caters on the difficult 10 at Hatfield. We also rang lots of call-changes and easier methods, catering for a wide range of abilities — including Sophie, who has been learning at Chiswick for only five months.

Well done, Mike, for all the organisation.

Bells in the news

Alan Rix writes: **Uxbridge bells** were in the limelight recently. 140 years ago, John Bedford Leno, who ran a shop in Windsor Street, Uxbridge, wrote a poem, *The Bells of Uxbridge on the River Colne*, which praised St Margaret's bells, and rubbished many others (including Bow Bells!) The poem, discovered in Uxbridge Library, was set to rock music by Scott Balcony, who runs a printed-T-shirt shop in the same street. He uploaded a video to YouTube; ITV News saw it, and sent a reporter and cameraman to interview Scott; the Rector, the Revd Andrew Sheard; and me ringing. The result was shown on the London TV news – good publicity. I have a printed shirt as a memento.

Special celebration

Geraldine Forster writes: We rang a rather **special Middlesex Association peal** at Isleworth on 7 November, to celebrate the centenary on that day of the birth of Harold W. Rogers, who was Tower Captain at Isleworth 1943-2012. The peal, 5100 Stedman Caters, was conducted by Harold's son, Chris Rogers. It was the 1,000th peal on the bells, and Michael Uphill's 1,400th peal.

Report from the Autumn Meeting

Linda Foddering writes: Held in Ealing Church Hall on 15 October, at 6.20 p.m., the meeting was attended by 38 people, and chaired by **Stephen Jakeman**, Vice-President. The President, the late Philip Vracas, had died in post in March. There was a minute's silence in his memory, and that of the late Dianne Stilwell.

The **General Treasurer**, Mark Harris, said that the General Fund was in good financial health, with a subscription income this year of about £4,800. The **BRF Treasurer**, Sarah Taylor, gave a similarly good report of that Fund: a bequest of £7,500 had been received during the year.

The **Bell Restoration Officer**, Stephen Jakeman, reported that Southwark Cathedral bells had been taken to Loughborough Foundry, but the recasting of the tenor had had to be done again. The bells would return to the Cathedral in January 2017. St Paul's Cathedral was planning a £360,000 restoration of its bells, installed in 1878. A grant application would be considered in March. Also discussed was Kensington's proposal to install dumb-bells at St Mary Abbots, for teaching. A BRF grant of up to £2000 towards this was approved.

The **200 Club** had raised £5,300 during the year. The autumn prize of £500 went to Paul Norman; the two £50 prizes to Helen Porter and Caroline Stockmann.

Calendar

Date	District	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 3 Dec	S&W	District Planning Meeting and general ringing	Hillingdon	2.30-4pm
Thur 8 Dec	S&W	District Triples Practice	Hanwell	8-9.30pm
Fri 9 Dec	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 10 Dec	MCA	'Christmas Shopping' ringing	S Margaret, W'minster	4.30-6pm
Sun 11 Dec	N&E	10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 13 Dec	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Fri 16 Dec	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington	7.45-9.15pm
Sat 7 Jan	S&W	Annual District Meeting (<i>see below</i>)	Fulham	From 3pm
Sun 8 Jan	N&E	10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 10 Jan	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Wed 11 Jan	N&E	7- and 8-bell Method Practice	South Hackney	7.30-9pm
Fri 13 Jan	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Thur 19 Jan	N&E	District 10-bell Practice	St Clement Danes	6.30-8.30pm
Fri 20 Jan	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington	7.45-9.15pm
Sat 21 Jan	N&E	Dist. Planning Meeting and Social (<i>see below</i>)	Hampstead	4.30-10pm
Tues 24 Jan	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Fri 27 Jan	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Fulham	7.30-9.15pm
Fri 27 Jan	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Thur 9 Feb	N&E	6-bell Surprise Minor Practice	St Katharine Cree	7-8.30pm
Thur 9 Feb	S&W	District Triples Practice	Hanwell	8-9.30pm
Fri 10 Feb	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 11 Feb	S&W	District ringing meeting	Norwood Green	2.30-4pm
Sun 12 Feb	N&E	District 10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 14 Feb	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Fri 17 Feb	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington	7.45-9.15pm
Sat 18 Feb	N&E	Annual District Meeting (<i>see below</i>)	Hendon and Edgware	2.15-8pm
Tues 21 Feb	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Fri 24 Feb	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Twickenham	7.30-9.15pm
Fri 24 Feb	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm

NEW IN 2017: LADIES' CONDUCTING SESSIONS. Get the confidence to call and conduct short touches, with feedback along the way — and also the chance to ring on back bells. Be prepared to do some homework beforehand. For more information, contact Linda Foddering on fodderi5@aol.com

Sat 7 Jan, S&W Annual District Meeting: The programme is as follows; 3 p.m., general ringing at Fulham. This will be followed by the service at 4.30 p.m.; and then the tea and meeting at 5. More info from Mike Wigney (07748 933779).

Sat 21 Jan, N&E Planning Meeting and Social: *Janet Drake writes:* Meeting 4.30 p.m. at Christ Church, Hampstead, with a cup of tea and general ringing 5.30-6.45 p.m. The Social is to be a musical evening organised by Michael Royalton-Kisch, with help from Janet Betham, and a bring-and-share supper. Tickets £10. More details nearer the time.

Sat 18 Feb, N&E Annual District Meeting: the programme is: general ringing at Hendon 2.15-3.30 p.m.; service ringing and service at Edgware 3.45 -4.30 p.m.; ADM at Edgware 5.30-7 p.m.; and general ringing till 8 p.m.

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Prudence Fay, editor, at prudence@sandpfay.co.uk, or by post to 5A Furlong Road, London N7 8LS. Next deadline, 15 Feb 2017. 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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